

Upazila roundup

SYLHET

4 killed, 12 hurt in separate road mishaps

From Our Correspondent

May 8: Four persons were killed and 12 others injured seriously in two separate road mishaps on Sylhet-Sunamganj highway recently.

According to the report, a paddy loaded truck (Chittagong-Metro Da-1846) met an accident while the driver lost control of the vehicle and skidded off the road near Hazrat Shahjalal University of Science and Technology. As a result, three persons, agricultural labourers died on the spot and seven others sustained serious injuries.

The bodies were sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College for post-mortem. A case has been registered in this regard. Police has seized the truck. The driver and helper had been absconding since the accident.

Another report adds: An accident took place at Dhanpur of Jangal on the Sylhet-Sunamganj highway while the driver of a paddy loaded truck lost control of the vehicle and skidded off the road into a roadside canal. As a result, one Martuj Ali (24), a day labourer died on the spot, and five other labourers were injured seriously.

JAMALPUR

Freedom Party organises protest rally

From Our Correspondent

May 8: The Jamalpur district unit Freedom Party organised a protest rally for killing their leader, Hadi Newaj Khan in front of their district unit office recently.

Reza Khandakar, President of Freedom Party district unit presided over the rally.

The rally was addressed among others by Advocate Mufti Alam, Jamaluddin, Shahidul Islam, Tarak Hasan, Shuruzzaman, Showkat Akbar Mintu, Syed Abdul Aziz.

The speakers in the rally demanded immediate arrest of the culprits those who are involved with Hadi Newaj Khan killing.

They also urged the present democratically elected government for the withdrawal of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pact.

CHANDPUR

Erratic power supply

From Our Correspondent

May 8: Load Shedding in seven upazilas of the district is hampering the production in different sectors to a large extent.

It is learnt that load shedding for hours together has become a regular feature in the district. Everyday power supply remains suspended for 15 to 20 hours. As a result, irrigation, cultivation, mills, factories and businessmen in the district are facing financial loss.

Due to frequent power failure, Chandpur Irrigation Project and Matlab Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project are being hampered seriously.

It is complained that the students are the worst sufferers as they can not continue their studies properly due to frequent interruption of electricity. Crimes have also been increased following frequent load shedding.

KISHOREGANJ

Irregular phone services

From Our Correspondent

May 8: Nation Wide Dialing (NWD) system introduced by Telephone Department has caused frustration among the subscribers of Kishoreganj due to irregular service.

Most of the time, the NWD channels remain out of order and offer busy tones causing much inconveniences to the subscribers.

Only ten channels including two booking have been put into operation from Kishoreganj to all other places connected with NWD. Out of eight channels, two are lying defective from the very beginning and could not be put into order as yet.

The six channels which are too inadequate to cope with the need of about 1500 subscribers of Kishoreganj.

Complaints in this regard to the higher authorities of Dhaka and Mymensingh which control Kishoreganj and adjoining areas have been proved futile.

BRAHMANBARIA

Jamaat unit confce held

From Our Correspondent

May 8: A two-days Roqna (member) conference of Jamaat-e-Islami district unit held here at Alfesany Academy recently.

Professor Habibur Rahman, Central Organising Secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami attended in the conference as chief guest while Kazi Nazrul Islam Khadeem, Ameer of Brahmanbaria district was in the chair.

The conference was addressed among others by Rostom Ali, Musaraf Hossain and Amzad Hossain.

In the conference, the speakers demanded and urged the government to release Prof Golam Azam.

JHENIDAH

2000 tubewells lying inoperative

From Our Correspondent

May 8: About 2000 hand tubewells have been lying inoperative in six upazilas of the district causing acute scarcity of pure drinking water in the area.

Of the total, 50 per cent are inoperative with the Public Sector and the rest 50 per cent with the private sector.

According to an official source, 499 tubewells have been choked up and the rest 501 tubewells are not working properly.

The upazila wise choked up tubewells which need to be re-sinking area 83 in sadar, 77 in Shalakupe, 103 in Kaliganj, 37 in Kotchandpur, 131 in Moheshpur and 69 in Harinakandi.

GAZIPUR

Annual science confce held

From Our Correspondent

May 8: A four-day long 17th annual Bangladesh Science Conference held at the Institute of Post-graduate Students in Agriculture (IPSA) at Shalna of the district recently.

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haque inaugurated the conference.

The President of BAAS, Dr. Aminul Islam presided over the conference. The conference was addressed among others by M Harun-or-Rashid, Chairman, Conference Organising Committee, Dr. Ekramul Ahsan, Director of IPSA and Dr A Hamid, Member Secretary of the organising Committee.

Twenty representatives from Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Canada, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Netherlands as well as the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and Crop Diversification Programme of Bangladesh-Canada-Netherlands were participated in the conference.

RAJBARI

Over 300 persons join BNP

From Our Correspondent

May 8: Twenty members of Rajbari Bar Association led by Advocate Khandoker Abu Asad Md Nurul Hasan and more than three hundred persons from different professions of Sultanpur union have joined BNP recently, reports BSS.

They met Joint Secretary General of BNP and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum at the local circuit house here and expressed solidarity with the ideals of Saheed Zia's 19-Point Programmes. Begum Farida Hasan, MP was present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Jahanara Begum said the massive participation of people in the development activities was prerequisite for the overall national progress.

COMILLA

Doctor honoured

May 8: Director of Diabetic Association of the district Dr Zobeida Hannan was honoured with the membership of International Diabetic Federation (IDF) recently, reports UNB.

Dr Zobeida attended a conference of IDF held in Washington in 1991. She presented a paper there.

This is the first time, a lady doctor obtained such membership from an international medical organisation.

Zobeida has also been invited to attend IDF conference scheduled to be held in Japan in 1994.



CHANDPUR: The bridge on Chandpur — Comilla Highway near Chandkhar Pool needs early repair to avoid mishap. — Star photo

Situation alarming

Diarrhoea kills 26, attacks 1000 in Manikganj

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, May 8: Diarrhoea has so far claimed 26 lives and attacked 1,000 others in five upazilas of the district during the last two weeks.

The water-borne disease has broken out in Daulatpur, Ghior, Shibhalaya, Harirampur and Sadar upazilas of the district in an epidemic form.

According to unofficial sources, 13 people died in Daulatpur, five in Shibhalaya, two in Ghior, two in Harirampur and four in Sadar upazila. Official sources however confirmed 10 deaths cases and attack of 610 people during the period.

The death cases were identified as Ebadad Ali (baby), Parul Begum (baby), Mintu (baby), Abdul Latif (72), Nasim (baby), Nimai (baby), Abdur Rahman (baby), Rubia (40) in Daulatpur upazila.

Shahor Ali (45), Nurul Islam (baby), Azizur Rahman (8), Shila (6), Shapna (baby), Washim (baby), Abdul Mannan (baby), Mamtaj Begum (7), died in Ghior, Shibhalaya and Sadar upazilas.

Scarcity of pure drinking water, malnutrition, consumption of adulterated foodstuff

and the excessive hot spell were said to be the main reasons for the outbreak of killer disease.

Want of oral saline and high prices of medicines further aggravated the situation. Some patients informed that they are to go back without proper treatment due to scarcity of essential drugs from the health complexes.

Madaripur

Our Madaripur Correspondent reports: Diarrhoea that broke out in the district killed two persons in village Amgram under Rajor upazila recently.

According to unofficial sources, hundreds of people have been attacked by diarrhoea in different areas of the district.

The use of impure drinking water and adulterated food were identified as the main reasons for the outbreak of the disease. Some patients informed that non-supply of oral saline and necessary medicines has been hampering the treatment of the disease.

Situation improves in Barisal

Our correspondent from Barisal says: The over all diarrhoeal situation in southern region of the country has improved due to rainfall in the areas for the last six days.

The number of deaths as well as the affected cases of diarrhoea has come down.

Dr Nazrul Islam, Civil Surgeon, Barisal told this correspondent that diarrhoea is under control now.

Meanwhile, the ICDDR, B set up field hospital in Bakerganj upazila of the district.

The diarrhoea specialists, Dr Akram and Dr Zaman informed that use of tetracycline is very much helpful as bacteria has been found after examining the blood and swab of diarrhoea patients. They also informed that the supply of pure drinking water is the precondition to halt the disease in the affected areas.

According to official sources, diarrhoea killed 97 and attacked 9892 in Barisal, killed 110 and attacked 4,294 in Patuakhali, killed 54 and attacked 3,312 in Bhola, killed 24 and attacked 2,263 in Jhalokathi and killed 12 and attacked 3,279 in Borguna since mid March till now.

500 ponds, 50 jalmahals lying uncultivated for long

MAGURA, May 8: Some 500 ponds and 50 Jalmahals in four upazilas of the district have been lying uncultivated for a long time, reports UNB.

Local fishermen informed that more than 1.5 lakh maunds of fish worth about Taka 20 crore might be produced every year in the district if the waterbodies were brought under fish farming.

Most of the waterbodies have either been silted or dried up. Besides, unabated growth of water hyacinths are also hampering pisciculture programme.

Besides, fish production could be increased if the necessary inputs like oil cake, urea fertilizers and bank loan could be made available to the genuine fishermen.

Fishermen have urged the authorities to re-excavate the silted ponds, canals and jalmahals and introduce scientific methods for boosting fish farming in the district.

163 power pumps installed

Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department has fielded 163 power pumps in four upazilas of the district to accelerate irrigation facilities.

According to official sources, 71 power pumps were installed in Sadar, 6 in Sreepur, 48 in Salikha and the rest 37 in Mohammadpur upazilas.

The power pumps supplied by the Agriculture Development Corporation were

Train carrying food, kerosene derailed

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 8: Eight bogies of a goods train were derailed carrying goods worth Taka 10 lakh near Amlapara on the Akhaura-Mymensingh rail road this evening.

The train coming from Akhaura was carrying kerosene in four of the boggies and food in the rest.

The accident took place at 3.55 pm spilling entire quantity of kerosene on the spot.

The rail communication on this route would remain suspended till Thursday morning, according to the station master of Kishoreganj station, adding that operation to clear the rail track will not end till Thursday.

Railway team to clear the rail track arrived at the spot late Wednesday evening.



SYLHET: The members of local All-party Resistance Movement brought out a procession recently in protest against the government decision to close the National Gas Fertilizer Factory, a subsidy of BCIC. — Star photo

Power, water supply inadequate

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, May 8: Erratic power supply, shortage of pure drinking water and bad condition of bridges have been causing sufferings to the dwellers of Mathbaria upazila of the district for a long.

Most of the big ponds of the upazila have dried up for which the people of the locality can not drink pure water. The inadequate number of tubewells can not supply drinking water to the area.

Out of 24 hours, the inhabitants are supplied electricity only for six hours. The production in mills and factories are greatly hampered by the irregular power supply. The

students, especially the HSC and SSC examinees are the worst sufferers.

An important bridge near Mathbaria bazar has been lying unrepaid for a long for which thousand of people have been facing untold sufferings. Accidents occur at this point frequently, it is reported.

It can be mentioned here that six people died of diarrhoea in the villages of Ghotibora and Sapleja under the upazila recently. The scarcity of pure drinking water has been identified as the main reason for the outbreak of the disease.

Husband-wife quarrel leaves two sons dead

RANGPUR, May 8: An angry mother killed her two sons and subsequently tried to commit suicide on Tuesday at village Changthajra in Debiganj Upazila of Panchagarh district, reports UNB.

Identified as Fuara Khatun, wife of Shahab Ali, she strangled to death her two sons Rashidul (5) and Faridul (7) after being angered at her husband's action against her.

Shahab Ali reportedly beat up Fuara following a family quarrel. Later, she attempted to commit suicide but failed.

Police arrested her and filed a case in this connection. Four students of Carmichael College here received stab injuries when the activists of a rival group attacked them on the college campus Wednesday.

The injured students Jewel Montaj, Obinash Reza, Shahin Tariq and Shouesham are the members of cultural organisation 'Shabdakantha', which took initiative in making the Muktiyoddha sculpture 'Prøjnomo' in the college campus. The sculpture was demolished by the rival groups a few months back.

BSF men kidnap

Bangladeshi farmer

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) kidnaped a Bangladeshi farmer on Tuesday from Kaliganj Upazila while working in the field.

Thunderbolt strikes function, 25 hurt

Barguna, May 8: Twentyfive people were injured, four seriously, as thunderbolt struck a function at village Janagalina in sadar upazila on Monday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said lightning flashed over the canopy under which the villagers gathered to have a funeral feast of Yakub Ali alias Kalu Chukidar.

Among the injured, 10 were admitted to Amtali Hospital. Those seriously injured were named Md Yunus Mia (45), Md Shah Jalal (35), Abdul Malek (30) and Md Bashiruddin.

School building may collapse

The half century old building of Charalgachia High School is in a dilapidated condition for a long time and may collapse at any time, local leaders said.

They alleged negligence of the authorities and said despite repeated appeals no action has yet been taken.

The school once had a record of glorious academic and extra-academic activities. But now the school authorities fail to take any development work due to shortage of funds and absence of government grant. The school authority could not even start the work of demolition.

Shortage of furniture, modern scientific apparatus, sports items, books, want of sanitary latrines and inadequate water

supply have aggravated the situation. Hostel facilities are also inadequate.

Sub-registry office faces problems

The district sub-registry office is facing problems in carrying out its normal works due to the lack of adequate space.

The sub-registry office, which maintains registration of deeds, needs immediate extension and development as it can hardly accommodate its staff, documents and office records, local people said.

The staff and employees of the office are huddled in three small rooms leaving very little space to move and work freely. The deed writers are also facing similar problems.

Condition of the record room is extremely bad. Valuable deeds and volumes are found scattered on the floor. These cannot be kept properly for want of space and requisite furniture.

Local people feel that a new building should be constructed to house the important office.

Girl commits suicide

A young girl of village Borishat in Sreepur Upazila of the district allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself.

According to family sources, Eti Begum (18) daughter of Akram Hossain Molla of the village allegedly killed herself following a family feud.

Five lose hands while making bombs

SATKHIRA, May 8: Five miscreants lost their hands while making bombs in a house at Chetua in Assasuni upazila on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The incident occurred while the miscreants were making the bombs at the house of Keramat Ali.

Among the injured, house owner Keramat Ali and Zakir Hossain of Kapsanda village were admitted to Assasuni Health Complex under police escort. A case has been filed in this connection.

Another report adds: Jattidra Saha (45) of Jaduranga village was killed by lightning on Monday night while he was returning home from a nearby

Local people recovered

Taka 10,000 from his possession and handed over the money to his family.

His body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A boy was killed and another injured when a speeding truck knocked a bicycle carrying them from behind near Kaliganj College on Tuesday.

According to police, Prodig, 8, son of Sritram of Kaliganj died instantly and Kabir, 16, son of Kanai of Nunnagore village in Shyamnagar upazila of the district sustained serious injuries in the accident.

Kabir was rushed to Satkhir Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

The truck was seized but the driver and helper managed to escape.

Notes from Comilla

COMILLA, May 8: A man of South Chartha in the district town seriously injured in a clash within the family succumbed to his injuries in Comilla General Hospital, reports UNB.

According to the witnesses, the victim Muslim Mia had a quarrel with his younger brother and his sister-in-law Khorsheida Begum on April 23.

At one stage of their quarrel, the wife of Muslim's brother called in her four brothers and attacked Muslim with lethal weapons and left the place leaving him seriously injured. He died on the following day.

Police sent the body to the hospital for autopsy.

Sheeha Shebak Sangtha unit formed

Jattiyatabadi Sheeha Shebak Sangtha — a front organisation of BNP, Comilla Unit, was formed at a meeting here recently.

Presided over by Kamaluddin Chowdhury, General Secretary, District BNP Unit, the meeting was addressed, among others, by central committee members Md Hassan Jewel and Mozammel Haq Khan.

A 31-member adhoc committee was formed in the meeting with Manirul Haque Bhuiyan as its Convenor and Liakat Ali Bhuiyan, Mostafizur Rahman Kiron, Shahidullah Shahid, Md Shah Alam, Anwar Hossain and Md Humayun Kabir as joint convenors.

Another report adds: 345 patients including 160 women with eye complications were treated and given free medicines in an eye camp held in Comilla Modern School on 24 April under the auspices of the Comilla Rotaract Club.

Eye camp concludes

A 10-day long eye camp has concluded at Payerkhola High School premises in Chaudhagram Upazila of the district.

About 50 cataract patients were successfully operated upon in the camp, organised by the Lions Club of Comilla in co-operation with the Lions Eye Hospital at Chittagang.

A large of patients with eye complications were also treated in the eye camp concluded on April 28.

Spectacles and free medicines were distributed among the patients.

Pipe gun recovered

Chandina police recovered a pipe gun from Alipur village and arrested Habibur Rahman of village Lakhtipur in Daudkandi Upazila in this connection.

A case has been registered with Chandina police and the arrested man has been sent to jail here.

Another report adds: Comilla Branch of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) performed 72 tubectomy and 12 vasectomy operations in its clinic at Badurtoila in the town during the first quarter of the current year.

Besides, another 174 were also given injectables and 66 given copper 'T' as temporary methods of spacing birth.

Club sources said such free eye camp would be held at the same venue on last Friday of every month.

Scholarship

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 8: Kamrunnahr Hlappy, a student of Patharghata Government Primary School obtained talent pool scholarship in the examination held in 1991.

Kamrunnahr is the eldest daughter of Kausar Ali of village Patharghata under sadar upazila of the district. She is the grand daughter of Golam Rasul Sarder, a renowned teacher of the area.

Afroza Rumana Khanam (Mitu) obtained second grade primary scholarship in telentpool scheme of 1991 from Karpasha Primary School in Munshiganj district.

She is the youngest daughter of eminent banker late Muhtuddin Khan and Peroza Khanam.

Mahtab Hossain (Shakeel), son of Sheikh Mohammad Khorsheed Alam obtained second grade primary scholarship in telentpool scheme of 1991 from Karpasha Primary School in Munshiganj district.

Local people recovered