

Upazila roundup

MANIKGANJ

Shortage of pure drinking water acute

From Our Correspondent
May 10 : Shortage of pure drinking water has been prevailing in seven upazilas of the district.

It is learnt that thousands of villagers have been suffering from various intestinal diseases using contaminated water.

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.

The maximum number of tubewells supplied by the Public Health Engineering Department do not work properly due to lack of maintenance since long.

Local people informed that the number of tubewells supplied by the Public Health Engineering Departments is not adequate to the requirement.

MAULVIBAZAR

Miscreants kill rice trader

From Our Correspondent

May 10 : One Rosomoy Das, a rice trader of Jamsibazar under Sreemongal Upazila of the district was killed by some miscreants recently.

It is learnt that at the sight of occurrence, some miscreants attacked the victim while he was returning home from Jamsibazar. He succumbed to injuries on the spot.

A case was registered with the Sreemongal police in this regard.

AGRI-VARSITY

3 get life-term on charge of kidnapping girl

From BAU Correspondent

May 10 : Additional Sessions Judge sentenced three persons to life-term recently on the charge of kidnapping one Sultana Begum (11), daughter of Farid Mia of Purahtara in Mymensingh town.

Another report adds: Property worth about Taka five lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Baghdadaria village under Trishal Upazila of Mymensingh district recently.

Witnesses said that the fire was originated from a kitchen and soon spread to the nearby houses. As a result, 22 kutchas houses, paddy and other valuables were gutted.

CHUADANGA

Three held with Indian pistol

From Our Correspondent

May 10 : Three persons were arrested with an Indian pistol by BDR personnel of Dhobakhali BOP under Jibannagar Upazila of the district recently.

The arrested persons were Syedur Rahman, Mosharraf Hossain and Shahidul Islam.

A case has been started with Jibannagar police in this connection.

MADARIPUR

BNP unit committee formed

From Our Correspondent

May 10 : A 102-member executive committee of the district unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was formed here recently.

Advocate Mujibur Rahman Tapan and Mohammad Salim were selected as President and Secretary respectively.

The members were: Abdul Mannan Sikder, Motalib Goura, Dr Khabiruddin Khan, Ferdous Jamader, Jhaudar Ali, Kazi Humayan Kabir, Chowdhury Nurul Alam, Abu Baker Siddique, Shamsul Haque, Enamul Hoque and Enamul Hoque Howlader Shahin.

Another report adds: The 50-bed Sadar hospital of the district has been plagued with manifold problems including want of emergency medicines, surgical equipment and adequate number of doctors.

Patients come from far-flung areas going back without proper treatment due to want of medicines.

It is complained that the doctors remain busy with their private practice and are hardly available in the hospital during the office time.

DINAJPUR

Works on 92 roads in progress

May 10 : Repair and reconstruction works of 92 roads in 16 northern districts are going on in full swing and are expected to be completed by the end of June, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned Taka eight crore and forty lakh for the projects in the current fiscal year.

The districts are: Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagar, Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Natore, Jolpurhat, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi.

KISHOREGANJ

Cattle lifting rampant

From Our Correspondent

May 10 : Cattle lifting has created panic among the poor farmers of Nandal and Iswarganj upazilas of the district.

The farmers complained that the cattle lifters in some places brutally peel skins of the stolen cows. They suspect that the cow lifters are the member of an organised gang. They said that 60 cows were stolen and skin of seven others were peeled off recently. As a result, owners have been compelled to stay in cowsheds at night to protect their cattle-head.

CHANDPUR

Bus mishap victim succumbs to injuries

May 10 : A victim of Mohamaya Bazar bus accident succumbed to his injuries at Chandpur Sadar Hospital recently, reports UNB.

The mishap took place when the driver lost its control and the Chandpur bound bus with about 50 passengers plunged into a roadside ditch leaving 30 people injured. The bus was coming from Comilla.

The victim Abdul Jalil (55) was admitted to the hospital with four others after the accident.

The deceased was learnt to be an employee of Bangladesh Jute Corporation and hailed from Badda in Hajiganj Upazila of the district.

FENI

Tk 12 lakh contraband goods seized

May 10 : Bangladesh Rifles and police seized contraband goods worth about Taka 12 lakh and arrested four people from different places of the district in the last week of April, reports UNB.

Official sources said a BDR contingent raided Taslim and Jashim Saw Mills at Chhaganitya Bazar on April 27. Arrested Enayetullah and Jashim of Uttar Andar Manik village and seized 71 feet of timber worth about Taka 42,600.

A truck with Indian logs worth about Taka 11 lakh was seized and two people were arrested from Pangachia area in the town on the same day.

The arrested are Wahidur Rahman of Kazarbag village and Mostafa of Beranchi village in Sadar upazila.

Feni thana police seized medicines, valued at Taka 50,000 smuggled from India, from a shop in the town, on April 30.

The medicines included 136 pieces of BG Phos, 120 phenylephrine, 300 bottles of gripe water and 110 hemoglobin vials.

None was, however, arrested in this connection.

TANGAIL

7 hurt, 200 houses damaged by nor'wester

May 10 : Seven persons received injuries and about 200 thatched houses were damaged by a nor'wester which blasted char areas along Jamuna-Dhaleswari rivers in Tangail on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The char areas fall under Torabganj, Malitapara, Jhulbari and Huga villages under Huga Union of the Sadar Upazila in the district. The standing crops and green fruits like mangoes and litchis — were damaged by the nor'wester.

These villages were badly affected by the nor'wester. Although sporadic rains occurred in these areas in the past few days the nor'wester is the first of this season. No relief has so far reached the areas.



AGRI-VARSITY: The VC of BAU, Prof. M. Ashraf Ali Khan distributing certificates among the participants of a 3-week-long international training programme on Agricultural Research Management held recently at GTI dormitory. — Star photo.

Growth of paddy plants encouraging

Bumper boro output likely

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, May 10 : The drought-hit boro paddy fields are now turning green gradually due to long waited rainfall in the district.

According to Meteorological Department, 200 mm rainfall have been recorded in the area during the last 12 days.

The Agriculture Extension Department, informed that the boro cultivation has exceeded target by 2,000 acres bringing total at 1,45,000 acres. The High Yielding Variety of boro crop such as BR-14 followed by BR-3 and 9 mostly covered entire district.

When visited some areas in Kaunia and Mithapukur upazilas, the correspondent found that the farmers are working at their boro field in smiling faces.

One Akram Hossain of Kaunia-Balapara said the recent draught has increased the

irrigation expenses. The unscrupulous traders also gained more profit through creating artificial fuel crisis. Abul Mokhtar, Rahmat and many other farmers of Kaunia and Mithapukur upazilas similarly had expressed their concern over creation of artificial fuel crisis.

Many of the poor farmers have sold valuable goods of their houses to fetch high prices of fuel.

The farmers are optimistic about bumper yield of boro paddy this year due to encouraging growth of the boro plants.

An official of the Agriculture Extension Department has expressed the same idea and said that farmers have faced the calamity with all means. The official said that the production of boro paddy would be around 50 maunds per acre on an average this year as against

40 maunds in previous years. The farmers will be able to reap bumper boro paddy this year, he hoped. Harvesting of boro paddy has already been started in the district and rice price has come down.

Indiscriminate smuggling of banned Indian insecticide, 'Thiodine' inside the country and its marketing at low price have become rampant in the district.

The unscrupulous traders with the help of their pet people drawing the attention of the farmers through false propaganda.

The border routes of Hilee, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, and Nilphamari are being used for its undisturbed smuggling inside country, it was informed.

The smuggled Thiodine was banned in India few years back for its harmful effects on the crops.

Sunflower farming prospect bright

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, May 10 : The cultivation of sunflower which seeds yield quality edible oil is gaining popularity in the region of Greater Faridpur.

Finding the sunflower cultivation profitable, the peasants are bringing more and more lands under the farming.

It is learnt that the sandy soil and the climate of our country are favourable for the cultivation and growth of sunflower during both winter and summer. Variation of temperature does not hamper the cultivation and it can also be cultivated on high lands of our country on large-scale round the year.

Besides, the branches of sunflower plant with soft straight stem is shorter than any other variety. There is less possibility of any damage to the plants by storm or rain.

It can be mentioned here

that sunflower not only attract the eyes of people but it is also a cash crop and the National Seed Board has approved its cultivation.

There is bright possibility for producing sunflower in our country particularly in the drought affected areas of west and north Bengal. If this flower is cultivated on large-scale, it will help the farmers of the region to gain economically.

It is informed that Bangladesh Imported sunflower seeds in 1975 and since then the scientific officers of Agriculture Research Institute, Faridpur have been carrying on research cultivation of sunflower in different fields.

It is expected that the production of sunflower may be doubled the scientists are working hard for better result. The scientists said that if the farmers cultivate sunflower

in consultation with the agricultural officials the oil seeds may gain second position as cash crop in our country.

It is informed that edible oil from sunflower seeds is better in comparison with other varieties of oil. On the other hand, sunflower oil is much better for cooking food and health and the oilcake of sunflower can be used as fodder for cattle and its stem as fuel.

The scientists of Agriculture Research Institute, Faridpur informed this correspondent that the farmers of Greater Faridpur, Manikganj, Rajshahi, Comilla are cultivating sunflower as a profitable cash crop.

Non-payment of dowry, polygamy and immoral activities have severed more than 22,000 marriages in four upazilas of the district during the last three years.

Jamaat-jatra party men clash, 15 hurt

SATKHIRA, May 10 : At least 15 people were injured, seven seriously, in a clash between activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and a local jatra party at Joyanagar in Shyamanagar upazila here recently, reports UNB.

The clash ensued when Jamaat activists raised protest against anti-social activities in the jatra party.

The seriously injured people identified as Bashar Gazi, Rajab Ali, Showkat, Hajrat, Abul Kashem, Nawab Gazi ad Abul Kalam.

Jatra organisers complained that Jamaat supporters took away cash Taka 24,000, milk and some musical instruments.

A case has been registered with the local police.

Two youngmen allegedly committed suicide at their houses in Sadar upazila on Tuesday last by taking poison.

The victims were identified as Anisur Rahman (24) of Kushkhali and Alam (20) of Kamalnagar.

Family feuds were learnt to be the main reasons behind their deaths. The bodies were sent to hospital for autopsy.

Two separate cases were lodged with the local police.

Dacoits attacked a minibus on Jessore-Satkhira highway and decamped with valuable worth about Taka 2 lakh on

Monday last.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits boarded the Satkhira bound bus in disguise and attacked the passengers when it reached at Belkhal in Kolaroa upazila.

They snatched away all belongings of the passengers at daggers' point and decamped safely with the booty.

A case was filed with Kolaroa police in this connection.

Drama artiste stabbed

Another UNB report adds: A drama artiste was assaulted and stabbed in front of Shilpakala Academy here by Shibir activists on Saturday.

The Shibir activists of Comilla Victoria College brought out a procession at 11 am and while they were passing through the Shilpakala Academy, the victim Ratan (27) was standing beside the road. Suddenly the processionists attacked and stabbed him grievously.

The victim was rushed to Comilla General Hospital.

Later, police raided the Shibir Office at Chowdhury Shira and after a brief encounter arrested 30 Shibir activists and recovered a Chinese axe, pipe gun and other lethal weapons.

Demand for embankment

PATUAKHALI, May 10 : Crops over thousands of acres of land are washed away or destroyed by saline water intrusion every year for want of an embankment around Lohalia Union, farmers and local official sources here said, reports UNB.

About seven years ago, a plan was taken up to construct an embankment in Lohalia Union to save the crops from flash flood and salinity but it was shelved later for unknown reason, they said.

As a result, an extensive area of the Lohalia Union belt

remains unprotected during the rainy season threatening IRRI-boro, aman and other rabi crops in the dry season.

Another embankment, built to protect the adjacent Kamalpur and Jainkati unions, creates additional pressure on the Lohalia Union particularly in the rainy season, they added.

Over 10,000 acres of crop fields in the Lohalia Union are affected by excess flow of water during the rainy season.

Union parishad members and farmers have urged the government to revive the Lohalia Union embankment project to regulate the water flow.

Barisal Development Society (BDS), an NGO has distributed 16,000 packets of oral saline and 348 bags of I-V saline in eight diarrhoea affected upazilas of four southern districts in Greater Barisal region.

The BDS sources said, the ORS and I-V saline have been distributed in Barisal Sadar, Banaripara, Bakerganj, Agailhara, Ujirpur, Bauphal, Kotlipara and Rajor upazilas where diarrhoea took a serious turn.

Two commit suicide

DINAJPUR, May 10 : Two people including a housewife allegedly committed suicide in the district, police said today, reports UNB.

In one incident, Tumkushadhu (40) of east Sultampur in Kaharole Upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging from a tree Wednesday.

Another Nazma Khatun (25) wife of Piarman of Nawpara in Hakimpur Upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Monday.

The reasons behind their suicide could not be ascertained immediately.

Two cases have been filed with the police.

Another report adds: A boy was killed on the spot when he was run over by a speeding truck recently.

The victim Faruk Hossain son of Arab Ali of Chalk Madhabpur in Sadar upazila was knocked down and ran over by the truck while he was crossing the road in the town.

Police seized the truck. A case has been filed with the police.

Workshop on prevention of diarrhoea

BARISAL, May 10 : A workshop on long-term planning for diarrhoeal diseases prevention was held at Bikalpa Unnayan Karmashuchi (BUN) training centre here Thursday, reports

Twenty six participants from six southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Borguna, Bhola, Jhalakati and Pirojpur attended the workshop.

Flora S Civena of UNICEF, Dr Samira and Dr Hiart of WHO and Faruque of ADAB addressed the workshop.

The workshop jointly organised by UNICEF and ADAB recommended a number of measures to prevent the diarrhoeal diseases.

The measures included: Continuation of breast feeding, low cost latrines, disposal of children's stool properly, measles immunization and use of pure water in rural areas. It also stressed for motivation among the villagers about primary health care.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, May 10 : A youngman committed suicide by hanging himself at village Ichhaganj under the Jagannathpur upazila under Sunamganj district recently.

According to the reports, the victim Abdus Sobhan (35) hails from Mymensingh. He committed suicide by hanging himself with the roof of a house where he used to live. The cause of the incident could not be ascertained immediately.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the police station. Police arrested two persons in this connection.

Father kills son

An agitated father killed his drunkard son at village Jainpur under Barokandi Union of Sylhet sadar recently.

According to the reports, Lalu Miah son of one Yusuf Ali used to return home at abnormal state almost everyday. He also used to misbehave with the family members. On the day of incident, the son took a dao to hit his father. The father tried to resist him with a crowbar. At one stage, the son sustained serious injurious with the hit of crowbar which caused his death.

The body was sent to the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital for post mortem. A case had been registered with police in this connection.

Body recovered

The body of an unknown oldman was recovered from the rail line near South Surma area of Sylhet town recently.

On getting informations, a police party went to the spot and recovered the body and sent it to the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital for post mortem. The body was bearing a number of injury marks.

A case of unnatural death been registered with the GRP in this connection.

Smuggled Indian sugar seized

Smuggled Indian sugar worth about Taka 33,600 had been recovered from an accident-hit minibus on Sylhet-Jakiganj highway recently.

According to the reports, the minibus met an accident with a babytaxi at Fulbari Union Parishad Office injuring three persons including the driver of the babytaxi.

Later police recovered the sugar from the minibus. A case had been registered with the Golapganj PS in this connection.

Youngman beaten to death

A youngman was beaten to death at village Islampur under Raniganj union of Jagannathpur upazila under Sunamganj district recently.

According to the reports, on the day of incident, one Abul Kalam, son of Abdus Salam, who lives in UK asked the victim Fakhrul Islam to carry a bag from Raniganj to their house. But Fakhrul denied.

On the same night Kalam and his associates attacked him with lethal weapons on his way to the bazar and beat him mercilessly.

Later he died in the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital.

The mother of the victim, had lodge a case in this connection with the local police station. None has yet been arrested.

Rally against pouira tax increase

JHENIDAH, May 10 : Hundreds of people of Kachandpur brought out a procession in the town here Sunday protesting abnormal rise of municipality tax, reports UNB.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town chanting various slogans against the sudden tax hike.

Later, they held a rally at Battala bazar and blamed the authorities for enhancing taxes without consulting the representatives of the dwellers.

Kalsi Bahini members join Jatiya Party

JAMALPUR, May 10 : Several thousand distressed women, who launched a 'Kalsi Bahini' demanding jobs from the government early their year, have joined the district unit of Jatiya Party, reports UNB.

Party sources said Jamela Begum, leader of the 'Kalsi Bahini', formally announced their allegiance to Jatiya Party at a meeting here on Thursday.

They were received by JP District Unit President Reza Khan.



KUSHTIA: The BDR men seized eleven sets of VCP from Alamkhali of Magura district recently. — Star photo