

Upazila roundup

SIRAJGANJ

2 fire arms, 5 rounds of bullets recovered, 2 held

From Our Correspondent
May 16: Sirajganj Sadar police recovered two fire arms and five rounds of bullet and arrested two persons recently. Acting on secret information, Sadar police led by the OC recovered one rifle and one SLR from the side of a pond of village Kandapara. Besides, police arrested two alleged snatchers with five rounds of bullet. They were Abdul Mannan and Akul Mia of Sirajganj town. Separate cases have been lodged with Sirajganj police.

SATKHIRA

Rat menace

From Our Correspondent
May 16: Rat menace has increased alarmingly in seven upazilas of the district causing extensive damage to the crops. Standing crops and vegetables on hundred of acres of land in rural areas in the district have been invaded by rats. Affected farmers of the district failed to check the menace due to lack of necessary insecticides. It is alleged that no drive to kill the rats has yet been launched in the district by the concerned departments.

KISHOREGANJ

Traders use old system of measurement

From Our Correspondent
May 16: The old system of weights and measurements is being used by a section of traders in different hats and bazars of 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district. According to eye witnesses, many unscrupulous traders of Tarial, Itra, Karimganj, Hossainpur, Mitmain, Nikli, Austagram, Bajitpur, Bhairab, Kuliarchar, Pakundia, Kattadi and Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila have been using the old system despite introduction of metric system by the authority. The hawkers and small traders buy items in the kg system but sell these in old system thus cheating the innocent customers. The inspection of different hats and bazars by mobile court may stop these malpractices, it is widely felt.

RAJBARI

Prices of rice up

From Our Correspondent
May 16: The prices of rice have registered an abnormal rise in Rajbari market during the last few days. It is learnt that the coarse variety of rice is now selling at Taka 14 to 15 per kg while medium quality of rice at Taka 16 to 17 and fine quality of rice at Taka 18 per kg. Atta is selling at Taka 12 per kg while flour at Taka 13 per kg in the local markets. The retailers in the open market claimed that the short supply during the lean period caused the price rise. It is expected that the price of rice is likely to come down after the harvest of aman crops in next November.

SYLHET

Minor girl drowned

From Our Correspondent
May 16: A minor girl (4) was drowned at village Mallikpur under Palaah Union Parishad of Biswamburpur Upazila under Sunamganj district recently. According to the reports, on the day of incident the victim fell in the pond of their house and met the tragic end of her life. The body was recovered after a long search from the pond. In another incident, a young girl (13) was drowned at village Mandalibhog under Chhatak Upazila of Sunamganj district recently. According to the reports, the victim who came to the house only four days before who worked there as a maid servant. She was drowned while she was taking her bath in the pond. A case of unnatural death had been registered with the Chhatak Police Station. The body was sent to the Sunamganj Sadar hospital for post-mortem.

KISHOREGANJ

Armed pirates loot cash, goods worth Tk 2 lakh

May 16: Armed pirates looted cash and goods worth about Taka 2 lakh from the passengers of a launch in the river Ghoraura in Nikli upazila Wednesday, reports UNB. The armed robbers boarded the Bhatrab bound launch in the guise of passengers and attacked the inmates when it reached near Chatirchar at 7-30 am. The launch ML Biswadoot was coming from Majlishpur. The pirates also beat up passengers who tried to resist them and looted valuables including cash, gold ornaments and wrist watches. Later they decamped with the booty by an engine boat. A case has been filed with the police. Local leaders alleged that dacoity, robbery theft, smuggling and hijacking the Nikli upazila have increased alarmingly in recent days and urged the authorities to check the menace.

JAMALPUR

Dalal Nirmul body meet held

From Our Correspondent
May 16: A meeting of "Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee" of Jamalpur district unit was held here at local Shaheed Minar recently. Advocate Moniruzzaman, Convenor of the unit committee presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed, among others by Shafiquzzaman Labu, district correspondent of Bhorer Kagoj, Awami League leader Advocate Ammanullah, JSD leader Khondokar Faruk Ahmed and Advocate Bakfillah. The speakers called upon all pro-liberation forces to be united for the ban of Jamaat-Shibir politics in Bangladesh. Later, they brought a procession and paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

NARSINGDI

Housewife commits suicide

From Our Correspondent
May 16: One Surja Banu, daughter of rickshawpuller committed suicide by taking poison under Raipur upazila recently. It is learnt that the victim married one Abdul Malek of the same village one year ago. Surja fell in love with a neighbour and she left her husband. Soon she became pregnant. Later, she proposed him to marry her. But her lover refused her proposal. Finding no other alternative, she committed suicide. A case has been filed with the police in this regard.

MADARIPUR

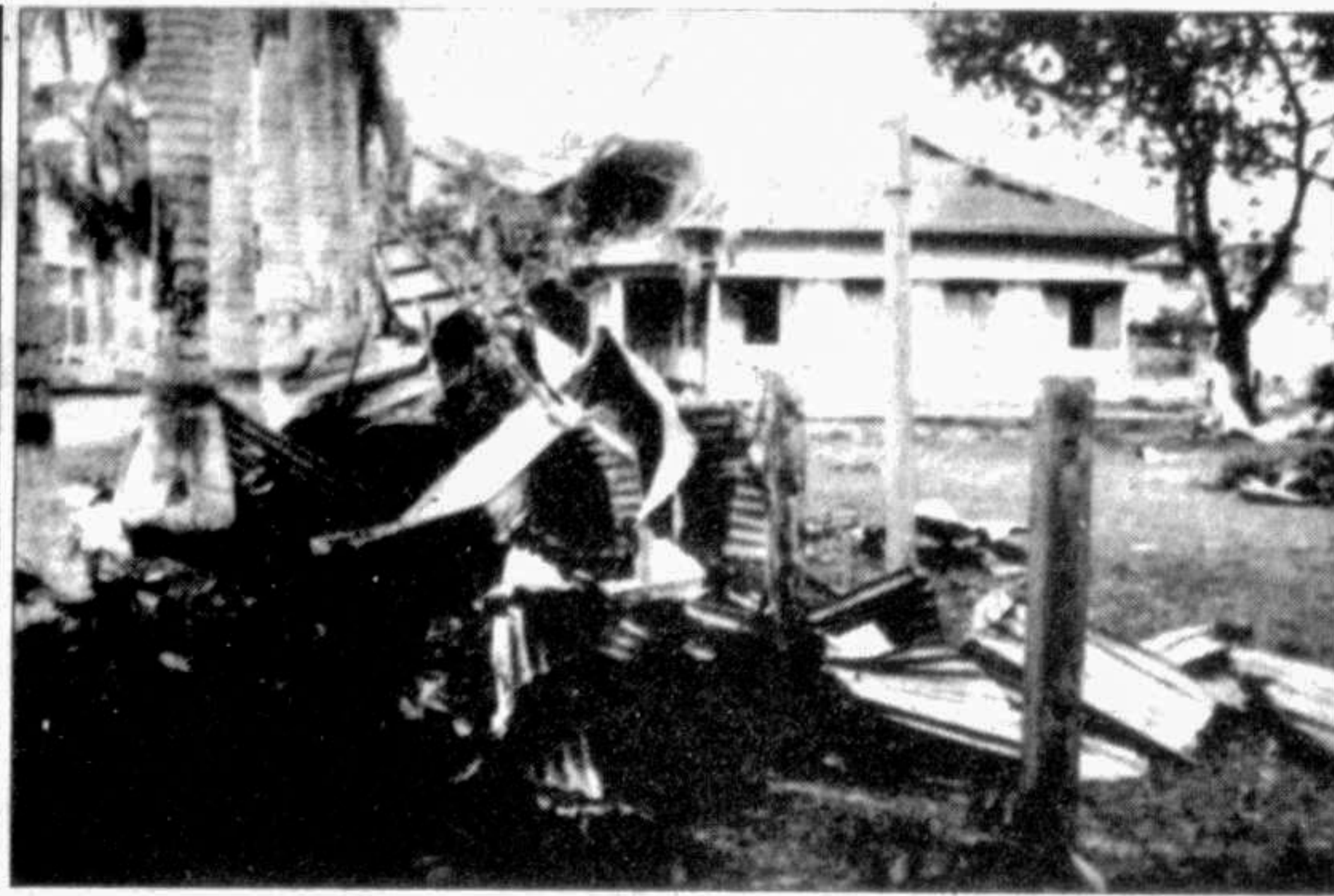
Postal services deteriorate

From Our Correspondent
May 16: Postal services in the district have deteriorated causing increased sufferings to the people. Lack of proper maintenance of the dilapidated buildings the post offices all over the district were believed to be hindering the normal flow of postal services. District headquarters sources said, there are about 75 branch post offices in the district and most of them are accommodated in rented houses which are in dilapidated condition. Rain water leaks through the roofs of many offices damaging valuable records and papers. Local people demanded immediate steps to solve the problems.

FARIDPUR

Body recovered

May 16: Police recovered the body of a young man from a hotel room here on Thursday last, reports UNB. According to police, the victim Mihir Mondal (28) of Rajmoni Studio at Rajor Bazar in Madaripur hired the room no 4 of the hotel Shaymoli and April 28. On April 29 he took his supper and went to his room. But he did not come out from the room next day. Being informed Kotwali police broke open the door and found the boarder dead. A case was registered with local police and the body was sent to Faridpur General Hospital for autopsy.



RAJBARI: A recent storm damaged the houses at village Habaspur of Bahadurpur Union under Pangsa Upazila. — Star photo

Malpractice in open market sale, rice prices up

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 16: The malpractice in Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice has further increased the prices of rice in the district. The prices of different varieties of rice are ranging between taka 12 and Taka 15 per kg in most markets of the district. It is informed that a large quantity of Open Market Sale (OMS) rice is regularly being sold in blackmarkets. A section of unscrupulous rice dealers in connivance with some traders are selling rice in blackmarket defying the government order to distribute among the consumers directly. It is further informed that the dealers in some areas sell rice without notifying the people. The dealers arrange sale abruptly and some times withdraw distribution satisfying only a few consumers. Thus the dealers grab the rice and doing brisk business by black-marketing the same. According to official sources, about 800 metric tons of Open Market Sale rice have so far been allotted for the

district which were scheduled to be distributed through 176 dealers. But due to malpractice, the Open Market Sale of rice (OMS) failed to arrest the price hike in the area. When contacted, District Food Controller told this correspondent that the authority would take immediate steps to stop the sale of open market rice in the blackmarket and actions would be taken against the dishonest dealers. The Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Melandah said that the government officers along with the law enforcing agencies were deployed at all the sale centres in the upazila. Meanwhile, the said measure has started yielding result to some extent. It is learnt that a section of rice dealers in collaboration with some Food Officials are selling the rice in blackmarket. When contacted, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Dev), Jamalpur informed that the administration is not aware of the happenings.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Melandah Upazila Unit has accorded a reception to the newly elected President of the upazila unit, Khatrul Bashir Chisty at Melandah Government High School ground. The function was presided over by the Melandah Unit President, Giasuddin Jamil. The meeting was addressed, among others by Mahbubur Rahman Ansari, Meherullah, Khondoker Ilias Mor-taza, Shahidul Huq Khan Dulal, Salek Talikder, Monwar How-lader, Fazul Kader Helal, Azam Khan, Ashraf Ahmed, Begum Farida Malik and others. The speakers at the meeting urged the people to go ahead with the present development schemes of the government which was initiated by the late President Ziaur Rahman. Later, the newly elected seven UP chairmen of the upazila formally joined the party (BNP). The names of the chairmen are: Abdul Hai, Habibur Rahman, Alimur Rahman, Badsha Mia, Abdul Aziz, Rashiduzzaman and Deputy Sarkar.

Notes from Kushtia

KUSHTIA, May 16: A Three-day book exhibition was held at the auditorium of Kushtia Public Library on May 10-12, reports UNB.

Sponsored by Kushtia Public Library, the book exhibition was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Syed Hafiz Ahmed on May 10. The inaugural function was addressed among others by Dr Ashraf Siddiqui, Chairman, Board of Directors of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), and Prof Abul Ahsan Chowdhury, Secretary, Kushtia Public Library.

Various publishers and book distributors including Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Bishwa Shahaitya Kendra, Islamic Foundation and Muktdadhara participated in the book fair.

Carpenter killed in train accident

One Niranjan Sharma (40), a carpenter, was allegedly killed in a train accident at Majampur level crossing here on Sunday last, reports BSS. The Jamuna Express knocked him as he was crossing the railway track. He was immediately removed to the Kushtia General Hospital where he succumbed to his injury.

Class boycott

UNB reports add: Students of local Islamic College Tuesday abstained from attending their classes protesting the cancellation of degree examination centre in the college. They brought out a procession in the town parading the main streets and chanted various slogans to restore the centre without further delay. The students later at a rally threatened to launch greater movement if their demand is not met immediately. Another report adds: A three-day book exhibition at the local public library premises concluded on Tuesday. Organised by the Bangla Academy, the exhibition was opened by the Deputy Commissioner. A large number of people visited the exhibition and the sale proceeds were highly satisfactory.

Housewives commit suicide

Two house wives committed suicide by taking poison on Wednesday. They were Nekazannessa (45) wife of day-labourer Mohammad Ali of village Dahakula and Nurjahan Begum (23) of village Hatthibhanga of sadar upazila. One killed in truck mishap. A youth of village Moragacha in Khoksa upazila was killed in a truck mishap near Kumarkhal bus stand Tuesday. According to witnesses, the victim Mokbul Hossain (20) while crossing the road was crushed to death by the brick loaded speeding truck. His body was sent to morgue for autopsy. Police seized the truck and a case has been filed in this connection.

2 Postal staff jailed for assaulting Postmaster

COMILLA May 16: Two postal employees have been awarded four years rigorous imprisonment each for assaulting the Postmaster, court sources here said, reports UNB. The accused night guard Abdul Mannan and packer Ashke Ali of Comilla Head Post Office were also fined Taka 1000 each, in default, to suffer six months more. The case, in brief, was that the then Postmaster Rakanuddin of Comilla Head Post Office was attacked and injured seriously by some employees on July 30, 1990 when he joined the office after enjoying long leave. The Postmaster filed a case with the Kotwali police who after investigation submitted charge sheet against five people.

Nor'wester kills one in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, May 16: A nor'wester accompanied by hailstorm swept over three villages at Faridganj upazila here Tuesday, killing a man and injuring 30 others, reports UNB. The storm tore through Manikraj, Gazipur and Balithura villages Tuesday afternoon, razing to the ground more than 100 mud and straw houses, uprooting trees and damaging about a dozen establishments during its 15-minute fury. Witnesses said Abdur Rashid Mia (42), a farmer of Manikraj village, died in a wall collapse.

39 injured in clashes

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, May 16: Twenty five persons were injured in clashes between two local rival groups on Wednesday morning. It is learnt that a son of Advocate Younus Ali Mollah and a son of Abdus Samad, Nazir of local collectorate had a dispute over the business money and at one stage they started clash. The clashes took place at Binapani Government Girls School, Model Government High School and local Modern General Hospital premises. The participants of the clashes used deadly weapons including the fire arms. The participants of the clashes used deadly weapons including the fire arms. Out of the total, one person received serious bullet injuries and has been admitted to local general hospital. A police contingent led by Second Officer, Aminur

Rahman rushed to the spot and arrested 11 persons in this connection. A UNB report adds: At least 14 people were injured in separate clashes in different places of the district on Wednesday. Emadul Huq Shahin (18) and Olituzzaman (20), students of a local Madrasa, were attacked by some mastans while they were sitting in the veranda of a mosque in Amlapara of the town. Rezaul (25), Hasina (27), Olituz Rahman (23), Anwar (30), Harun (16), Minhaj (34) and Jahangir (14) were injured in the clash. In another incident two youngmen Hafizur Rahman and Mohibul Huq of Khalikundi Bazar of Daulatpur Upazila of the district were injured when some miscreants hit them with a sharp-edged axe on Wednesday.

Tagore's birth day celebration

Shahzadpur wore festive look

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 16: In celebrating the 131st birth anniversary of Poet Rabindranath Tagore at Shahzadpur, a small upazila headquarters town wore a festive look. The national level programme was observed here under district supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the ceremony. On the opening day, Shahzadpur turned the cultural capital of Bangladesh and received high officials and intellectuals including Prime Minister, State Minister of Cultural Affairs, State Minister of Law and Justice, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Secretary, Cultural Ministry and district officials. The Deputy Commissioner's camp office also worked there for three days round the clock. The main venue was set up at Shahzadpur Government College ground. The small space of the venue failed to accommodate the huge gathering estimated at more than 50,000. Intellectuals like Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui Dr. Moniruzzaman, Rashid Karim,

Khan Aatur Rahman, Amjad Hossain and Dr Khondoker Sirajul Haque attended the function. Besides, the artists of Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA), Dhaka Shilpakala Academy, cultural organisation Shirstu, Nagarik Natya Gosthi and local cultural groups presented charming performances including musical soiree, dance drama 'shyama' and dramas like 'Achalayatan' and Shasti of Tagore. During the period, Shahzadpur town was overcrowded by the visitors. Due to difference of opinion, the scheduled grameen mela could not be held at Pilot High School ground. Scattered stalls and shops created traffic jam in the town. However, despite some minor problems the function was successful. District Jatiya Party in a meeting at its office in the town demanded immediate release of their party Chairman former President H M Ershad. The leaders in the meeting held recently criticised the government for failure in checking the terrorist activities in different parts of the country.

Hostel staff on strike to protest assault

RANGAMATI, May 16: The Class Four Employees of all educational institutions here have been on nonstop strike for the last two days to protest assault on their colleagues in Rangamati Tribal Student Hostel, reports UNB. The strikers said the tribal inmates of the hostel assaulted four non-tribal employees on Wednesday (May 13) after the hostel authorities had asked the tribal students to devote to studies and maintain discipline. The four assaulted employees — Abdul Mannan, Abul Kashed, Humayun and Shaheed — are undergoing treatment in Rangamati Sadar Hospital. The employees held a rally at the Rangamati Govt College compound and urged the authorities concerned to take action against the unruly tribal students. Otherwise, the meeting warned, the class four employees would not resume their duty. Pritimoy Chakma, a Medical Assistant of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), surrendered Thursday last to the security forces in Mogban Army Zone of Kaptai region, officials said. Pritimoy, recruited by PCJSS in 1987, was working at Shantipur Medical Centre in the Indian State of Tripura, the sources quoted him as saying. The centre provides med-

ical services to the outlawed Shantibahinimen. He submitted some important documents about insurgency. He came to Rangamati from Tripura on two months' leave. Abduction of 6 tribal leaders protested. Earlier report adds: More than a thousand peace loving tribals Tuesday demonstrated at Barkal Upazila headquarters condemning the atrocities of outlawed Shantibahini and urging the people to stand against the terrorists. They brought out a big procession this morning to protest abduction of six tribal leaders, including a union parishad member, recently by the Shantibahini. Barkal UP member Sadhan Mani Chakma, Headman Purna Kumar Chakma, Priya Shankar Chakma, Pathar Mani Chakma, Bimal Chakma and Thurendra Chakma were kidnapped at gunpoint by Shantibahini men at dead of night on May 7 as they reportedly denied to pay tolls and cooperate with the insurgents. They warned of greater movement against the Shantibahini if the abducted tribal leaders are not freed immediately. The tribal leaders also submitted a memorandum to the UNO of Barkal Upazila.

Divorces on increase

BORGUNA, May 16: Number of divorces and marriages is increasing gradually with mushroom growth of unlicensed marriage registrars in five upazilas of the district, reports UNB. According to a reliable source, over 5000 divorce cases were recorded in five upazila courts of the district during the last three years. Violating government ban, marriages of under-aged girls are being solemnised by a section of greedy marriage registrars. These under-aged housewives are the worst victims as they are being divorced mostly for dowry creating social problems. The divorced women cannot go to the court for dispensation of justice in the absence of registered marriage deeds as most marriages are done without registration. The divorced women are allegedly resorting to anti-social

activities vitiating the serene atmosphere. Moreover, polygamies are also on rise causing disharmony in family life. The deep tubewell, sunk in the Mokamia Alla Madrasa premises here, has been lying inoperative for a long time causing difficulties to the students and the people of the adjoining area. The Mokamia Alla Madrasa, is an important Islamic education centre of the eastern region and there are about 700 students, Madrasa sources said. Besides, there is a big bazar, a Tahsil of office, bank, orphanage, dak-banglow, post office and primary school in the premises of the Madrasa, which used to get water from the tubewell. Local people urged the authorities to repair the deep tubewell at the earliest.



AGRI-VARSITY: Prof M Ashraf Ali, VC of BAU distributing relief materials to a tornado victim that swept over this area recently. — Star photo