

Upazila roundup

BARISAL
8272 apply for 153 posts of pry teacher

May 29: A total of 8,272 candidates including women applied for 153 vacant posts of Assistant Teachers in Barisal district, reports BSS. According to an official source, of the total, 85 per cent candidates are holders of Higher Secondary Certificate and the rest are Degree and primary training. A large number of teachers are expected to be promoted to the next higher posts in this district and as a result the vacant posts of the teachers might be increased to about 300, the source said. The interview of the candidates would be held some dates in the middle of July.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ
Call to implement verdict of people's court

May 29: Convenor of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Jahanara Imam called upon the pro-liberation forces to be united to carry forward the present movement for implementing the spirit of Liberation War, reports UNB. She was addressing a public meeting at a local college ground Wednesday. She urged upon the government to execute the people's court verdict pronounced on March 26. Presided over by Prof Enamul Haq, the meeting was also addressed by Mirza Sultan Raza, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Nirmal Sen, Nurul Islam Nahid and Moulana Zakir Hossain.

PABNA
Khaleda's India visit fruitless, says Menon

May 29: Worker's Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon has alleged that the much publicised visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to India has totally failed to bring about any good for the country, reports UNB. Addressing a rally at Iwardi bus terminal on Thursday, the Worker's Party leader said Begum Zia had disappointed all by not taking any concrete step towards the solution of the sharing of the Ganges water and other longstanding bilateral issues. He further alleged that the agreement on Jamdani saree will go against the interest of the country. Referring to the budget for the next financial year, Menon asserted that any attempt to impose new taxation increasing the hardship of the common man will be seriously resisted.

Presided over by President of the district unit of the party Comrade Nazrul Islam, the rally was addressed, among others, by Ali Abbas, Abdul Matin and Tipu Biswas.

SHERPUR
Section 144 at UZ Headquarters

May 29: Section 144 was imposed on Nalibari Upazila Headquarters following clash on Thursday between Chhatra League (M-I) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in which ten passersby were injured, reports UNB. Witnesses said during the clash the student activists damaged a number of shops at Muddhya Bazar. Later, shopkeepers brought out a procession. The processionists joined local BNP office when passing by it. But none was hurt. The BNP leaders blamed Awami Leaguers for the attack. As tension was mounting, Upazila Magistrate imposed Section 144 to ward off further clash.

FARIDPUR
Nazrul's birth anniversary observed

May 29: The 93rd birth anniversary of Rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed here in a befitting manner, reports BSS. A number of socio-cultural organisations chalked out programmes to observe the day. Faridpur Shilpakala Academy, Faridpur Shahitya Parishad and Faridpur Nazrul Parishad jointly organised a discussion meeting followed by cultural function at the premises of Shilpakala Academy. Speakers at the discussion meeting said that Rebel Poet had inspired the downtrodden people of the Indian subcontinent to shake off the shackles of British colonialism.

SATKHIRA
Body of fisherman recovered

May 29: The villagers of Dattinakhal of Shaymaganj upazila Wednesday recovered the body of a fisherman who was allegedly shot dead by the forest guard in the Sundarbans, reports UNB. Police sent the body to Sadar hospital for postmortem. The fisherman, Amzad Hossain was killed on Monday after a hot exchange with the forest guard at Munshiganj Camp of the district. According to the local people, five fishermen of the village went on fishing at Sundarbans with the permission of the forest officials on Monday. But the forest guards of Munshiganj Camp demanded bride from them and when they refused to comply the guards became furious. At one stage of hot exchange the guard Mohammad Ali opened fire on the fishermen killing Amzad Hossain on the spot and injuring two others. Later, the guard snatched the body from the fellow fishermen at gun point and kept it in a hidden place. The villagers after two days of search recovered the body.

RANGPUR
Principal manhandled

May 29: The Principal of Mithapukur Upazila Degree College was manhandled Tuesday by a group of students of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), reports UNB. According to police, the incident was the backlash of Monday's incident in which JCD leader, Ashrafuzzaman Dowlah was expelled by the Principal for adopting unfair means in the BA examinations. Following the expulsion, a group of JCD activists gheraoed the residence of the Principal Tuesday night and assaulted him, the sources said.

TANGAIL
Two dafaders awarded prizes

May 29: Two dafaders were awarded prizes by the Deputy Commissioner, Tangail on Saturday for their performances, reports BSS. The Deputy Commissioner handed over the prizes during a meeting of Tangail Development Committee. The meeting stressed the need of a more coordinated effort of relevant departments to run developmental activities smoothly. Election of the students' union of Kumudini Government College was held on Wednesday in a peaceful atmosphere. The full panel of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) won the election. Umme Salma Btun and Somana Parvin Shima have been elected Vice-President and General Secretary respectively of the student union of the college.

HABIGANJ
Students observe road blockade

May 29: Students of Churnagrahat Government College observed a road blockade programme on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway Thursday, reports UNB. As a result, vehicular movement were totally stopped from early morning to 2 pm. Called by the All Party Students Unity, the programme was observed for realising their five point demand. The demands include appointment of qualified Principal, appointment of necessary teachers, opening of B Com and B Sc courses, holding of college students' union election and investigation into irregularities and corruption in the college affairs.

MADARIPUR
40 pc children living under breadline

May 29: About 40 per cent children between five and eight years are living under breadline in the district, reports UNB. A recent statistical survey reveals that 35,000 children in four upazilas of the district are suffering from malnutrition and living in distress due to extreme poverty. About 1 lakh are attending primary schools. The poverty stricken children are forced to take jobs as hotel-boys, rickshawpullers, cobblers, shoe-shiners and domestic servants to support their families.



BOGRA: Victims of malnutrition. — Star photo

Bogra villages in clutch of untreatable malnutrition

BOGRA, May 29: Rezina Begum is only 24 and still she looks a haggard old woman. She came to Gabtali Upazila health Complex, Bogra with her three children for treatment. The children were all skin and bones. The attending doctor wrote a prescription for them. Asgar Ali, 38, also is a walking skeleton. He also came with two children, in the same state of wasting. They also got a prescription from doctor. What kind of diseases they have contracted? The doctor said these were scabies and respiratory tract infection and helminthiasis, all caused by malnutrition. Infant mortality rate per thousand live birth in urban areas is 97 and in the rural areas 114. Child mortality rate per thousand (1-5 years) is 8.60 in urban and 14 in rural areas.

Income groups) suffer from stunting malnutrition, for the case of lower income groups the stunting or chronic incidence is much higher (63 to 65 per cent in the income group of less than Taka 2000). The same pattern also obtains in the case of wasting or acute malnutrition. As compared to the overall wasting rate of urban children (7 per cent), the urban poor children suffer more with a wasting rate of more than 12 per cent. In case of rural children these percentage is higher still.

Calories intake has gone down from 2734 calories per day in 1937, to 2301 calories in 1965 to 2094 in 1975-76 to 1943 in 1981-82 to 1850 only in 1990 out of the required 2273 calories. Per capita consumption of protein has gone down from 58.5 in 1975-76 to 48.4 gm in 1981-82. At present 77 per cent of all households are devoid of required level of protein intake. The animal product such as fish, meat, milk etc have almost disappeared from the diet of the majority of the population. Low intake of food, unsatisfactory environmental sanitation, and widespread malnutrition affect the vulnerable groups particularly children under 5 years. High infant mortality is primarily due to malnutrition. Among the survivors many remain victims throughout their lives as their physical growth gets stunted and mental development remain retarded.

In a cycle of poverty malnutrition affects the mother and often claims the child. The poor nutritional situation is compounded by widespread deficiency of key micronutrients in the people's diet. Recent estimates say that 19 lakh people in Bogra district are undernourished and majority of them live in rural areas. They are doubly the victims of ignorance and superstition. They often fail to take full advantage of indigenous food or are lured by advertisers and the examples set by wealthier urban mothers to switch from breastfeeding to the bottle.

arrhoc. Vitamin A is found in foods of animal origin, milk, butter, eggs and liver which are well beyond the reach of most people and in a variety of plants food. Spinach, papaya and mango which are accessible. In this nation some 9 lakh children below the age of 6 suffer from night blindness, 30,000 children become blind each year and 50 per cent of them die within a few months of the blinding episode.

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Tetanus is the leading killer of the rural and urban poor infants. The other fatal diseases of poor infants are diarrhoea, respiratory tract infection (RTI) and measles. Information from the two location Shariakandi and Dhumut also indicate that the leading causes of death of poor children are diarrhoeas, RTI, measles and typhoid. All these are directly caused by malnutrition.

Infant mortality in the village Shariakandi was calculated to be 180 per thousand and in Dhumut it was calculated to be 160 per thousand. Average infant mortality rate in this district was 150 per thousand. This is much higher, than the national average of 124 per thousand. The rural poor infant is thus more vulnerable to diseases and death than the infants in general.

What's to blame for this disparity? Malnutrition is the answer.

Hunger and malnutrition related to poverty affect all the people of the area. Only 4 to 5 per cent of the population at present consume adequate quantity and quality of food. The lower income group children are still worse off. It can be seen that while overall 45 per cent of urban children (all



KUSHIA: This one-mile-long beautiful garden on Ganga-Kapotak Irrigation Canal has been developed by the local Forest Extension Department in cooperation with Jagoti Nursery Centre under the Community Forestry Programme. — Star photo

Notes from Magura

MAGURA, May 29: Police have recovered the beheaded body of an unknown person aged about 42 from the side of Purbasha Cinema Hall in the town, reports UNB. Local people saw the body on the road and informed the police. Police sent the body for postmortem. Two people were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the gruesome murder. Further investigation is going on.

One electrocuted
A youngman of village Satrujitpur in Sadar Upazila was electrocuted, police said here today. The incident took place while the victim Lutfar Rahman (24) working in a rice mill suddenly came in contact with a live electric wire. Local people rushed to the spot and sent the victim to Sadar hospital where the doctors declared him dead. A case has been registered with the police.

One commits suicide
Another report adds: One Mohammad Alam (20) of village Barishat in Sreepur Upazila of the district allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself. Family sources said the victim killed himself due to family troubles out of financial crisis.

Phone exchange set up
Bangladesh Telephone Board has set up three upazilas telephone exchange here at a total cost of Taka 45 lakh. According to an official source, one has been constructed at Sreepur Upazila at a cost of Taka 15 lakh, one at Mohammadpur Upazila costing Taka 15 lakh and the third at Arpara in Salka Upazila at a cost of Taka 15 lakh.

Cruel husband
SIRAJGANJ, May 29: A greedy husband of Vetua Jagannathpur in Kazipur upazila raped his wife along with his four accomplices, killed his five months old son and threw both of them into the river Jamuna Saturday for dowry money of Taka 700, reports UNB. Azibar a resident of Gufirbari Char village on the following day rescued the ill-fated wife Rehana unconscious from the river but the body of the child was still missing. Rafiqul Islam (25) son of Aziz Chaklader married Rehana Begum (20) daughter of Aziz Bepari of Panagari village of the same upazila two years ago. Later, he demanded Taka 10,000 as dowry. Rehana's father, however, paid Taka 9,300. Rafiqul put pressure on his wife to bring the rest amount of Taka 700 from his father-in-law and Rehana accordingly arranged the money from her father and kept it in her possession but refused to hand over the same to her husband. At this Rafiqul became furious and with the help of his four accomplices forcibly took her with the child to an unknown char area by a boat and killed the baby in front of her. Later, they violated her one after another and threw both of them into the river. A case has been filed with the police.

Electric bills of Tk 80 lakh remain out standing
PATUAKHALI, May 29: An amount of Tk 80 lakh electricity bills remained outstanding in the town, officials said, reports UNB.

In an attempt to realise the outstanding bills local Power Development Board authorities has started drive to disconnect the power lines of the defaulting consumers. Prior to the drive PDB issued notices that the consumers who fail to pay the bills for a period of over three months would be treated as defaulters and their electricity lines would be snapped without any further notice. It is alleged that many people of the town and its adjoining areas took illegal power connection in collaboration with some dishonest officials. The residents urged the authorities to take stern action against the illegal power consumers and necessary measures to check load shedding and frequent power disruption.

Problems hamper edn in Amtali College

BARGUNA, May 29: Amtali Degree College has long been beset with various problems including shortage of accommodation, furniture, common room, library, science laboratory and sports appliances, reports UNB. The college started functioning in 1972 and earned reputation but still the college has not been taken over by the government even though some colleges have been nationalised in the southern region which were established much later. Degree classes in arts and commerce were introduced four years back in the college but no lecturer has yet been posted. Besides, for fund shortage, it is alleged the college authority is unable to open Science Department in the degree class. The college has got a total of 500 students but there is no requisite number of classrooms to accommodate the students. As a result, the students have to use the cyclone shelter as classrooms which stand on the college campus. Another report adds: The election of Barguna district Bar Association was held recently. Tofazzel Hossain Talukder and Md Khalilur Rahman were elected President and Secretary respectively. The 131st birth anniversary of Poet Rabindranath Tagore was observed here recently by various socio-cultural organisations with due fervour. Barguna Shilpakala Academy organised a discussion meeting followed by musical soiree at the government college hall room. Speakers at the discussion meeting paid rich tributes to

the poet for his immense contribution to the Bengali language and literature. The discussion meeting was presided over by Prof Abdus Salam. Among others, Syed Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Razia Begum, Principal of Women's College, Prof Protab Chandra Biswas took part in the discussion. The number of gay girls has been increasing and creating social problems in the district town. Numerous girls from poor families rendered destitute by natural calamities are resorting to immoral activities for living, social workers reported. Students and young people are lured by them to immoral and anti-social activities it is alleged. They are found mostly on platforms, guest houses, roadsides and sometimes in office premises. Local elite have urged the authorities to take necessary scheme to rehabilitate them in the society properly.

Ansars, VDP rally held at Barisal
BARISAL, May 29: A rally of Barisal district Ansars and Village Defence Party (VDP) members was held at Bale's Park here on May 12. Lt Col Mohammad Harunur Rashid, Director (Training), Ansar and VDP was present at the rally as chief guest. Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Deputy Director, attended as special guest.

Secretary read out the annual report in the session. The clash erupted in the afternoon session which was presiding over by Zillur Rahman. Soon the clash spread outside areas and shops were closed and vehicles went off the road when the AL activists started rampage, witnesses added. A report from Kushtia says: Two separate biennial conferences of the District Awami League were held here on Tuesday following the split in the party. A group headed by Advocate Ahsanullah another by Mujibul Haque, former Bherama Upazila Chairman held their conferences in two different places. Advocate Ahsanullah's conference at Shilpakala Academy was inaugurated by Central Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu, while the other conference at local Nabarun Club inaugurated by former MP Azizur Rahman Akkas. Two district committees were formed — one by Ahsanullah and Md Anwar Ali as President and Secretary and another by Mujibul Haque and Abdur Rouf as President and Secretary respectively. While contacted, the Central Awami League leaders made no comment in this regard.

Comilla dist AL confce
Rival groups clash, 50 injured
COMILLA, May 29: The biennial council session of the District Awami League held here on Wednesday ended in a Pandemonium following chase and counter chase and violent armed clashes between the two rival groups, reports UNB. At least 50 people were injured in the clash during the subject committee meeting in the afternoon session. The clash ensued when the proposal of local leader Afzal Khan came up as General Secretary. The proposal was vehemently protested by the group led by the sitting Acting General secretary AKM Bahauddin Bahar, a former Pura Commissioner. At this, both the group locked up in skirmishes. Numerous crackers were exploded and scuffles, beating and counter beating left at least 50 people injured, two seriously, witnesses said. Later, police intervened, fired tear gas shells and charged batons to disperse the fighting elements. No arrest was reported and no case was filed in this connection. The council session began at the Comilla Town Hall at 10 am two hours late with Advocate Ahmed Ali in the chair. Zillur Rahman, Member of the AL Presidium and central leader Mamtaz Hossain were present as chief and special guests. Acting General

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Scarcity of fish acute
BRAHMANBARIA, May 29: Pisciculture in the district has been badly affected due to massive siltation in river Titas causing scarcity of fish in the area, reports UNB. According to a report, unplanned use of chemical fertilizer and insecticides in crop fields has also affected the production of different kinds of fish in the district for the last one month. Shortage of fishing materials and their high price have added to the problem of growth in the farm. Moreover, the crisis deepened due to the indiscriminate fishing by non professional fishermen in beels, ponds and rivers. Talking to UNB the fishermen said the scarcity has aggravated the already hard-pressed financial condition of the community forcing them to leave the profession and adopt others for livelihood. Meanwhile prices of dried fish and meat have shot up in the seven upazilas of the district. Eight people were recently sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Taka 2,000 each and in default six months rigorous imprisonment.

8 killed in mishaps
JAMALPUR, May 29: Seven persons were killed in separate accidents at different places in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts recently, reports BSS. Thando Miah (35) and Mashur (30) were crushed under the Jamuna Express Train at Tarakandi Rail Crossing. They were riding a bicycle. Another Kulsom Begum (25) was killed under the running train at Boyra Rail Station under Sarishabari Upazila. One Salma Begum (40) of local Dewanpara was electrocuted and Jhara Begum (22) of village Budechandi under sadar upazila was crushed under running train. One Chaina (4) daughter of