

District roundup

COMILLA

Housewife beaten to death

Apr 17: A young housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband and his kin and kiths for spending only Taka 45 to buy Eid-gifts for her children, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, Ramuza Begum, wife of Shafulah of Kandi village in Chandina thana spent the amount out of Taka 500 kept earlier with her by her husband. On the fateful day of March 24, when Shafulah came to learn the matter he became furious and started beating her mercilessly with the help of other relatives.

Later she was rushed to the local hospital where the doctors declared her dead. Police sent the body to morgue for autopsy.

NARSINGDI

27 uplift projects taken up

Apr 17: Twentyseven development projects taken up at a cost of about Taka 50 crore under Annual Development Programme of Narasingdi Zila Parishad will be implemented in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects include construction and reconstruction of roads and culverts and a passenger's shade.

Works on the projects are going on in full swing and will be completed by June next, the source said.

MEHERPUR

Training on vegetables farming held

Apr 17: A three-day training on scientific method of vegetable cultivation was held recently at Baradi horticultural centre near here, reports BSS.

Forty vegetable growers including ten women of Darbeshpur Vegetable Cultivation Scheme under Pirojpur Uniqn participated in the training.

Horticulturists Khairul Islam and Mozammel Huj among others conducted the training.

DINAJPUR

One killed in clash

Apr 17: A youngman was killed by his brother at Altpur village in Kotwali thana of the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Family sources said Altaf Hossain (27) was suddenly attacked and severely beaten up by his brother Astruddin and his two sons when a quarrel erupted over piling wheat straw of a disputed land.

Altaf was rushed to Dinajpur General Hospital where he succumbed on the same day.

A case was filed with Kotwali police. Both Altaf and Astruddin are the sons of Mostir Mollah of the village.

FENI

Tk 7 lakh Indian sarees seized

Apr 17: Bangladesh Rifles seized 700 pieces of Indian sarees worth about Taka 7 lakh from a house of frontier village Madhugram and arrested a woman in this connection, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, BDR men raided the residence of Abdul Latif on April 7, seized the sarees and nabbed his wife Hazera Khatun in this connection.

Abdul Latif, who was also inside the house during the raid, however, managed to flee.

Hazera was later handed over to Chhgalnaya police and the goods to the local Customs Department.

A case was filed in this connection.

BANDARBAN

Poura chairman commissioners' meet held

Apr 17: The first meeting of the newly elected chairman and commissioners of Bandaban Paurashava was held at the municipal office on April 7, reports BSS.

Ayub Chowdhury, Chairman of Bandaban Paurashava presided over the meeting which was attended by nine commissioners and paurashava staff.

The chairman and the commissioners pledged to work unitedly and wholeheartedly to make Bandaban paurashava an ideal one.

NOAKHALI

Students reunion concludes

NOAKHALI: A reunion of the former students of Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury High School was held here recently, reports BSS.

Renowned businessman and Managing Director of Gazi and Company Ltd AKM Patwari was the chief guest on the occasion while Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury presided. Major (Retd) Sirajul Islam, Advocate A Malek, Headmaster of the school MA Hye and social worker Dulal Miah also spoke.

Speakers at the reunion discussed how to further develop the school.

A reception was also accorded to Patwari on the same day by the Gazirhat Smriti Sangad where he donated for the treatment of two persons suffering from cancer.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting different stalls of an exhibition on high breeding livestock and poultry after opening it at Bogra stadium on April 15. —PID photo

Diarrhoea takes 100 lives in Barisal, Jessore

MULADI (Barisal), Apr 17: Diarrhoea has taken a serious turn in all the seven unions of Muladi thana claiming more than 60 lives during the last one month, reports UNB.

Unofficial sources said about 10,000 people were also attacked by the water borne disease during the period.

Of the victims most were said to be children and women.

Doctors attributed the outbreak of the disease to scarcity of pure drinking water, consumption of adulterated food and use of kutcha latrines.

A task-force headed by the Thana Health Officer was constituted to combat the disease.

Syed Foundation of Bangladesh, an NGO working in the thana, also formed a 22-team comprising local doctors and health workers to check the spread of the disease.

The teams were rendering services in distributing oral saline and making people aware of how to fight it.

Local elite urged the concerned authorities to immediately distribute adequate medicine and supply tube-wells and sanitary latrines for the affected areas. Another report says:

Six more people died of diarrhoea and some 1,322 people were attacked by the disease in 24 hours till 9 am yesterday.

Diarrhoea Control Room sources in Dhaka said that with the latest deaths, the toll rose to 1,640 since the outbreak of the disease in early January.

So far, some 1,26,582 people in 16 districts were attacked by the water borne bacteria. The disease first broke out in eighth southern districts.

Of the fresh deaths, three were in Laxmipur and one each in Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Khulna districts.

District-wise break-up of the diarrhoeal disease in last 24 hours: Barguna-39, Pirojpur-33, Bagherhat-50, Patuakhali-36, Khulna-159, Jhalakati-29, Bhola-49, Barisal-41, Narayan-

ganj-28, Gopalganj-4, Kishoreganj-19, Netrokona-9, Laxmipur-72, Noakhali-388, Jessore-26 and in capital Dhaka-527.

Our Jessore Correspondent adds: Diarrhoea claimed thirty four people and attacked a total of three thousand others in eight thanas of the district during the last three months, said a source.

According to an official report, in Kotwali including the Jessore Municipality, seventeen persons died and nine hundred three were attacked.

In Monirampur, four persons died while three hundred thirty others were attacked.

In Bangherpara, two people died and four hundred thirty were attacked.

In Obhainagar, death-toll was eight and number of attacked three hundred ninety.

In Sharsha, four people died and eighty four were attacked.

In Jhinkergacha, one died and eighty four others were attacked.

UNB from Rangpur says: Three people including an unidentified woman were killed in three separate road accidents in the district Thursday.

Police said Tazul Islam of Karanipara in Kotwali thana was killed at Dhap area on Rangpur-Dinajpur highway when a Saldpur bound truck knocked him form behind.

An unidentified woman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding tank lorry at Angbarazar of Pirganj thana on Rangpur-Bogra highway while crossing the road.

In another accident one Nazrina Begum (12) was run over by a speeding jeep at village Binakuri in Kishoreganj thana on Rangpur-Dalla road.

Three separate cases were filed with the police in this connection.

Another report from Habiganj: Two people were killed in two separate incidents in Nabiganj and Lakhal thanas in the last week.

The dead were identified as Abdul Mannan of Tegoria village under Lakhal thana and Abdun Noor (35) of Nabiganj thana.

Police sources said Abdul Mannan went to catch fish in Sahati river but did not return. Later police recovered his body from the bank of the river.

Abdun Noor was allegedly killed by the rival group as a sequel to a quarrel over a trifling matter with his cousin Khaleque Mia.

Noor died on the way to thana Health Complex. Two separate cases had been filed with the local police.

Another message from Feni adds: A youngman was electrocuted at Uttar Sakandarpur village in Daganbhuiyan thana of the district.

The dead was identified as Alauddin (30), an electrician.

Alauddin met the tragic while he came in contact with a live electric wire. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Another report Feni adds: Villagers in Sonagaz thana were taken aback by unnatural death of five children in ways not yet intelligible to them.

Police, however, said the deaths occurred in accidents and started investigation to unearth the causes.

Sources said three children — Khurshed Alam (8), Ayub Ali (7) and Hedayet Hossain (7) of a family at village Char Elahi — were missing from their house on April 4. They were found dead in a nearby ditch after four days of their disappearance with injuries on the bodies.

Notes from Maulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Apr 17: The election of Maulvibazar District Association of Advocate Bar was held recently at Bar Association auditorium.

Candidates for the posts of president, vice president and Library Secretary were elected unopposed, while polling was held for eight out of eleven posts including General Secretary.

The elected office-bearers are: President — Abdul Muhit Chowdhury (unopposed), Vice President — Abul Hasim Chowdhury (unopposed), General Secretary — Mujibur Rahman, Asstt Secretary — Abdul Musabbir, Library Secretary — Giasuddin Ahmed (unopposed), Sports and Cultural Secretary — Mamunur Rashid, Members — Dudley Derik Prentice, Manjur Ahmed, Alak Roy, Syed Ali Akhtar and Tarek Ahmed.

Oath-taking ceremony

The oath-taking ceremony of newly elected Chairman and Commissioners of Srimongal Poursava of the district was held recently at the Srimongal poursava office premises.

Arif Hussain, Deputy Commissioner of Maulvibazar administered the oath of Mohosin Miah Modhu, newly elected chairman and commissioners namely Md Zinu Miah, Md Kala Miah, Md Sharafat Alam, Md Milad Hussain, Md Said Miah, Abdul Musabbir, Quazi Md Noor Miah Chowdhury and Shahidul Alam.

High officials of the district and hundreds of town dwellers were present in the oath-taking ceremony.

Discussion meet held

The Eid reunion and discussion meeting on the Independence Day organised by the Guntjan Sambardhana Parishad was held recently at local poura-auditorium.

Mustak Ahmed Mom, leader of the organisation presided over the function. Chairman of Maulvibazar Poursava and valiant freedom fighter Syed Mohosin Ali was the only speaker in the function.

The function was rounded off with a brief cultural function and a tea party.

30 tea-gardens on auction

A decision have been taken to call 30 tea gardens of Maulvibazar and Habiganj districts on auction to recover the arrears of taxes.

A source of districts revenue department informed that, these tea gardens have not been paying land development tax for long even after registration of certificate cases against them.

Earlier, the revenue department informed the situation to the Land Ministry and Tea Board Authority. But initiative have not been taken by any authority to realise the arrears taxes.

Irregular water supply

Irregular flow of water supply in the district headquarter has become acute which hampering the normal life of the town dwellers.

Water supply in the town is quite inadequate as the Public Health Engineering Department has arranged to supply water in only one third area of the town. Some deep tubewells are now defective for which flow of water in pipe lines are very slow.

Residents of the municipal area urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures including implementation of the water supply project to meet the rising demand of water supply in the town.

Indian goods worth Tk 1.5 cr seized in B'baria

From Our Correspondent
BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 17: BDR personnel seized Indian goods worth about taka 1.5 crore and arrested 67 persons from different parts of the district during the last three months.

The recovered contrabands items include 5515 pieces of Indian sarees, nine tons of sugar, 21,000 numbers of spare motor parts, 2545 metres of sofa cover, 968 metres of plain clothes, 2518 bottles of phynasidyl, 1442 metres of screen clothes, 48 pieces of photo films, 2.5 metric tons of Indian fishes, 62 kg ganja, 599 kg of dal, 139 kg Bangladeshi brass, 322 kg tortoise and other goods.

The goods were later deposited to Customs office.

22 railway staff face defalcation charge

Bangladesh railway has put 22 employees including five officers of West Zone Railway under suspension for misappropriation of about Taka 35 lakh from the income of Dinajpur rail station, reports BSS.

These officers and employees were directly or indirectly involved with misappropriation of income of the station during their employment at Dinajpur station at different times, a railway press release said yesterday.

Those who have been suspended are present station superintendents of Rajshahi, Bogra and Dinajpur stations KF Rahman, Sirajuddin Akhand and Amanat Ali Sheikh respectively, inspector of traffic accounts section of West Zone Railway Nawsher Ali and Reazul Islam, chief booking assistant M A Samad, booking assistants Sunil Kumar Barman, Md Abdur Rahman, Azizul Haq, Masumul Haq, Mokhlesur Rahman, Deen Mohammad and former booking assistant Abdul Quyum of

Dinajpur station, station clerk M A Gaffar, parcel assistants Mohammad Ali, Amdadul Islam, Shamsul Haq and relieving assistant station master Shahidul Islam.

Beside, present booking assistants at Bogra, Baznahar, Sultanpur School and Kaunia stations Siddique Hossain, Emdat Rasul, Golzar Hossain and Makbul Hossain respectively were also put under suspension in the same allegation.

Miscreants kidnap minor girl

JHENIDAH, Apr 17: A 12-year old girl of Kabirpur village in Sailakupa thana was kidnapped on Friday evening, reports UNB.

Police sources said a gang of miscreants allegedly led by Shaif, a young businessman of neighbouring village entered the house of Ashwini Kumar and kidnapped his daughter Sagarica at gun point.

Cutting of fruit-bearing trees unabated

NETROKONA, Apr 17: Indiscriminate felling of fruit-bearing trees caused a serious threat to the ecology and fruit production in the district, reports UNB.

Agriculture experts said the district situated in the region and fruit-bearing trees grow here with minimum care and costs. The number of trees is decreasing day by day alarmingly due to wanton cutting.

Netrakona Sadar, Kendua, Atpara, Purbadhala and Durgapur thanas of the district were famous for different fruit-bearing trees like jack fruit, lichi, mango, palm, black berry, coconut and jamrul. A huge quantity of surplus fruits were marketed by the growers.

But to present the production has come down to an alarming proportion as the poverty-stricken people are forced to sell their fruit-bearing trees to the wood traders to maintain their livelihood.

Some farmers said they took loans from the money lenders by mortgaging their trees to meet their daily ex-

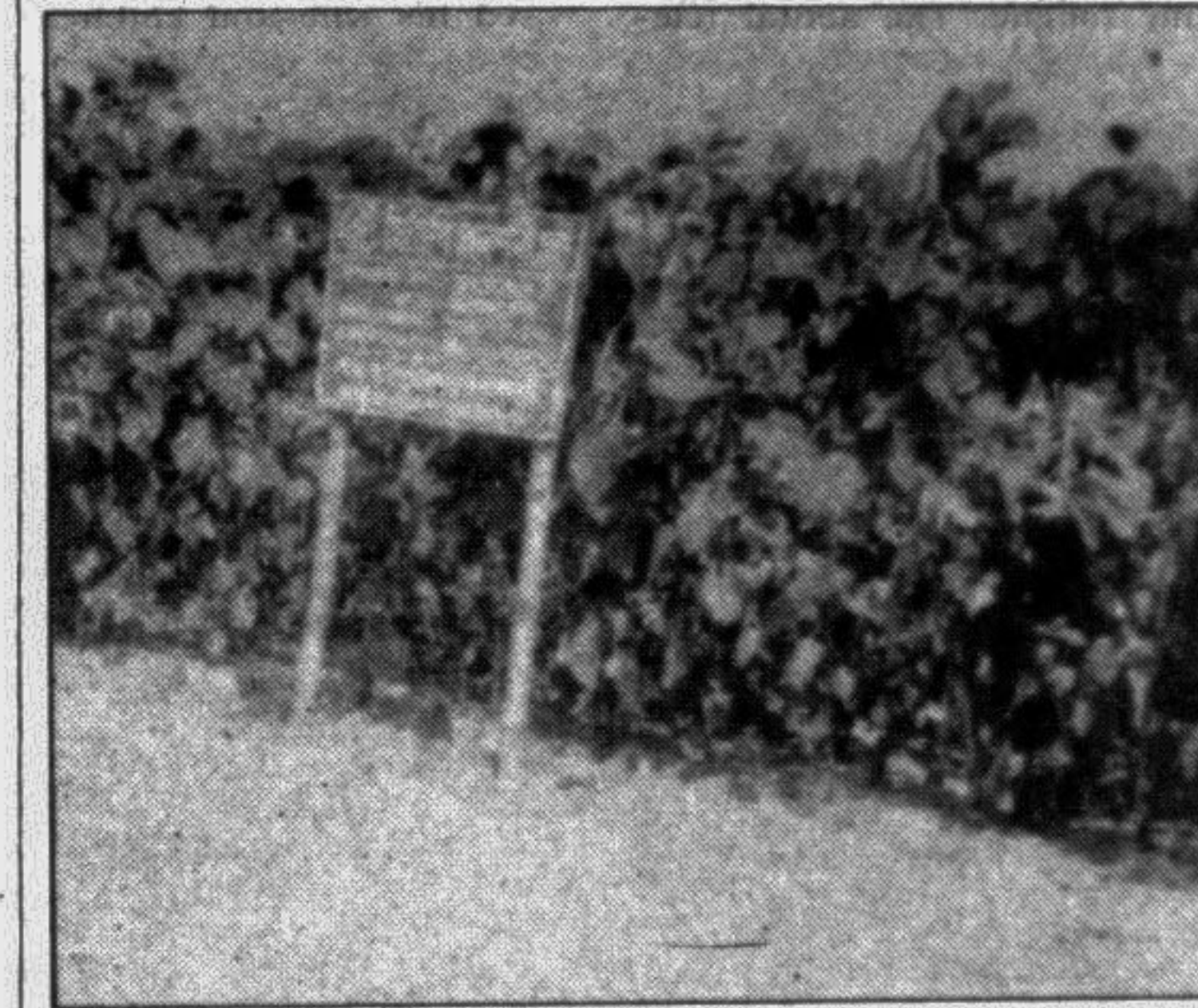
penses. They could not refund the loans and ultimately they lost their trees after a few years.

The tree are rampantly being used as fuel in the brickfields, furniture and other building materials causing its gradual decay. There are 50 brickfields and 40 saw mills in the district.

Hundreds of wood-loaded trucks are seen transported to different areas of the country every day. On the other hand, planting of fruit-bearing is rare causing ecological imbalance which changes the rainfall and weather pattern of the district.

BSS adds: A mobile paramedical team headed by Deputy Director of Family Planning Netrokona Harunur Rashid Monday rendered a daylong health care and family planning service to the patients at three clinics in the rural areas under Netrokona Sadar thana.

An official source said the three clinics are Baluakhali clinic, Durgasrom clinic and Jagoti clinic.



JHENIDAH: A demonstration plot of sunflower at village Gabla of the district. —Star photo

People urged to take part in uplift works

BHALUKA (Mymensingh), Apr 17: State Minister for Land M Kabir Hossain on Tuesday formally inaugurated the re-excavation work of Meduar Canal of Bhaluka thana under Mymensingh district, reports BSS.

All professional groups including Ansars, VDP members, teachers, students, farmers and government employees participated voluntarily in the programme.

Local MP Amanullah Chowdhury was also present.

About five thousand acres of land will be brought under irrigation facilities after completion of 1.6 kilometre long

Meduar Canal. This will also help produce additional 1.50 lakh maunds of paddy.

Earlier, the state minister addressing a public meeting here said that the present government firmly believe in politics of production and was bound to ensure Dal-Bhat for all.

He urged all to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia by participating in the development programmes initiated by the present government.

He said that settlement operation was going on in this area, he urged the concerned authorities to properly complete the records.

'It's time to work unitedly'

MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 17: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Wednesday called for all to shun the path of conflict and take a fresh vow on the first day of Bangla new year 1400 to work unitedly for strengthening the village-centred economy of the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing a meeting of transport workers on the occasion of opening the earthfilling of Maulvibazar district mibus stand.

"It is time for us to work together sinking petty differences to rebuild the country from the destruction of nine years of autocracy," Saifur Rahman told the gathering.

Amid applause, he held the hands of local MP Atizur Rahman of Awami League and declared "we may have ideolog-

ical differences, but we are united as far as good of the commonman is concerned."

"Now is time to work, not to create division in society or indulge in talk talks like the fallen autocrat, Ershad."

His itinerary included opening the carpeting work of Kulaum-Nabaganj road inspection of Darus Sunnah Fazel Madrasha, visit to Monu bridge site and Jagannathji Gopal Krishna High School and laying foundation-stone for a new science building and Shah Helal High School and proposed auditorium of Ali Amjad Girls High School, opening of earth work and proposed Maulvibazar Stadium and development of Maulvibazar Town Senior Madrasha under Food for Works Programme.



SIRAJGANJ: A cataract patient is being operated upon at Belkuchi thana eye camp recently. A total of 98 cataract patients including 48 women were operated upon. Eye specialists Dr Abu Yusuf Talukder and Dr Ismail Hossain conducted the operations. —Star photo

CHITTAGONG

Smuggled goods seized

Apr 17: Bangladesh Navy in coordination with the Customs authorities recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka 15 lakh from a foreign ship near the outer anchorage Wednesday last, an ISPR press release said.

The defaulting vessel M V Andrine Goncharov arrived at the outer anchorage on April 14. The vessel was later brought to harbour under Naval escort for handing it over to the concerned authorities.

The recovered contraband included colour TV sets, whisky bottles and dinner sets.