

District roundup

MADARIPUR

Sports meet, cultural contest held
Apr 26: A two day sports meet and cultural function of Razoir Degree College under Razoir thana were held recently at the college premises, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur Abdus Sattar Miah was chief guest at the concluding day function, which was presided over by officiating Principal Prof Abul Hashem Shepal.

A K M Musa, Secretary, Zila Parishad and Mohammad Nazuddin Miah, Thana Nirbahi Officer, Razoir, among others, spoke on the occasion.

The chief guest distributed prizes among the winners in the sports and cultural competitions.

FARIDPUR

All-party meet held for Faridpur Div
Apr 26: An all-party meeting was held at the town Thursday to press home the demand for establishing Faridpur division immediately, reports UNB.

The speakers demanded a new administrative Faridpur Division comprising Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Faridpur districts.

Chaired by BNP district president Advocate Sarwarjan Mia, the meeting was attended by the leaders of BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party, CPB, Janata Dal, Muslim League, other political parties, student organisations, professionals, journalists and cross section of people.

It was addressed, among others, by Mosharraf Hossain MP, Advocate Abdur Rahman Bakul, Principal Mia Lutfar Rahman, Syed Mudarres Ali Isa, Syed Amruzzaman, Comrade Atiar Rahman, Bipul Ghose, Kamruzzaman Khan, Nur Mohammad Babul and Munshi Harun.

The meeting also formed a 101-member Faridpur Division Implementation Committee headed by Nazibul Hassan Farooq, a noted social worker and an industrialist.

The meeting decided to form an advisory committee with all the members of the parliament, high officials, noted social workers and senior journalists of the five districts of greater Faridpur.

BARISAL

Seminar on diarrhoea prevention concludes
Apr 26: A day-long seminar on "Sanitation promotion and diarrhoea prevention" was held here on Saturday to create consciousness among the people on health issues, reports UNB.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Strajul Haq inaugurated the seminar as chief guest at Ashwani Kumar Town Hall.

Presided over by Divisional Commissioner MA Rashid the seminar was also attended by local MP. Mosarraf Hossain Mungu, Secretary of Local Government Engineering Division Musfiquar Rahman, Joint Secretary of Health Dr Khalilullah, Deputy Director of Health Dr Anisur Rahman, Pura Administrator Ahsan Habib Kamal, Chief Engineering Aminuddin Ahmed, UNICEF Representative Kamal Islam and Special Advisor to UNICEF M Mojibul Haq.

The Deputy Minister said the main cause of diarrhoea outbreak is lack of proper sanitation system and ignorance of about the healthy life style.

JHENIDAH

Outlawed Ganabahini kills one
Apr 26: Some gunmen of outlawed Ganabahini killed a man at village Kangshi in Sadar thana on Friday. Police recovered the body from a nearby canal on the following day, reports UNB.

Police said the victim Thandu Mollah (32) of the village who was linked with the party was dragged out of his house by the assailants, shot him dead and threw the body into the canal.

Police suspected that internal conflict might be the reason behind the brutal killing. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with the local police.

CHITTAGONG

CU annual art exhibition begins
Apr 26: A week-long annual art exhibition under the auspices of Fine Arts Department of Chittagong University began at the Arts Faculty Building Saturday, reports BSS.

Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Rafiqul Islam Choudhury inaugurated the exhibition at a simple ceremony.

Chaired by Mansurul Karim, Chairman of the Department, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Professor Murtaza Bashir and Zia Haider of the same department, a university press release said.

While speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor recalled the works of great artists Shilpacharya Jajnul Abedin and Kamrul Hassan and said their works depicted the real life of the people of Bangladesh.

Prof Choudhury urged the artists of the country to portray the real picture of our people.

RANGAMATI

Tk one crore property gutted
Apr 26: Property worth about Taka one crore was gutted in a devastating fire at Chitmaram bazar of Kaptai thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Chitmaram Union Parishad Chairman Aung Thoi Marma said the fire destroyed 25 shops and 6 dwelling houses.

Affected people alleged that the fire originated from an over of a country-made liquor shop.

Affected people and local leaders urged the concerned authority to grant financial help for their early rehabilitation.

NAOGAON

Killing of four people by BDR men protested
Apr 26: A meeting was held in Badalganj thana on Saturday in protest against the killing of four people in firing by BDR men at Kholahat village, reports UNB.

Speakers at the meeting, presided over by Khola UP Chairman Nurul Islam Dulu, condemned the killing and demand exemplary punishment of those responsible for it.

Meanwhile, the government has set up a one-man judicial enquiry commission headed by retired High Court Judge Justice Abdul Matin Chowdhury to probe into the incident.

BDR men allegedly opened fire on the public Friday night killing four people and wounding 20 others.

The dead were identified as Shahidul Islam (16), Astruddin (44), Anwar Hossain (28) and Wazed Ali (23).

FENI

Special credit plan for poor rural women launched
Apr 26: Government has launched a special credit programme for distressed rural women of the country to help them self employment generation, reports UNB.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Mrs Sarwari Rahman said this while disbursing credit among women at Shaheed Zahir Raihan auditorium here Saturday.

She said, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has provided a fund of Taka 2.74 crore to the Women's Affairs Department for the purpose.

Mrs Rahman said rural distressed women will be able to find their jobs in poultry and cattle rearing, pisciculture, kitchen gardening and small business by utilising this credit.

She disbursed about Taka 2 lakh among 95 rural women of the district.

Begum Halima Khatun MP, Director of Women's Affairs Department and Additional District Magistrate were present on the occasion.

SHARIATPUR

25 tin-shed houses gutted
Apr 26: Twentyfive tin-shed houses were gutted in a devastating fire at village Damuday Bheshalia under Shariatpur district recently, reports BSS.

Eye-witnesses said property including foodgrains and household articles worth lakhs of Taka gutted in the fire. Cause of the fire could not be ascertained.



MYMENSINGH: Local artistes are seen rendering songs at a function arranged by the local administration on the occasion of Pabela Baishakh. — Star photo

Cyclone, tornado, tidal bore kill 15 lakh people so far

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Apr 26: Cyclone, tornado and tidal bore claimed over 15 lakh lives and damaged property worth hundreds of crore taka during the last 76 years.

According to a survey, 9,58,023 people died, 50 lakh people were injured and hundreds of people became untraced by the natural calamities during the period. Unofficial figure will be more than that of the official figure.

The tidal bores of 1970 and 1991 were the most devastating in comparison with the other ones.

These two tidal bores took the maximum number of lives, cattle and damaged many houses, crops particularly in the vast coastal areas of the country — Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Bhola and Noakhali.

People of off-shore land of Cox's Bazar and Bhola were the most affected ones.

Among the cyclone or tornado affected areas of the Southern districts, Patuakhali, Barisal, Barguna, Bhola, Noakhali, Feni, Laxmipur, Bagerhat, Khulna, Chittagong, Jhalakathi, Peropur and Cox's Bazar are the worst hit areas.

According to Meteorological Department source, the tidal bores that hit the coastal districts had the magnitude of ten to 15 feet. The devastating tidal bore hit the coastal areas of Chittagong where two lakh people died.

Tornado of September, 1919 claimed lives of 350 persons, officials sources claimed. But the unofficial source disclosed the figure at 650.

The cyclone and tidal bore of 1960 killed 3,000 people. The intensity of wind was 100-130 mile per hour. Height of the tidal bore was 10 to 20 feet.

During the cyclone of May, 1961, more than 468 people were killed and crops and property of crores of taka were damaged.

Cyclone hit the country four times in 1964 and 1965 where official death figures were recorded as 31,868.

In 1991, according to official source, two lakh died and the height of the tidal bore was 15 to 20 feet. The intensity of wind was 145 miles per hour.

BSS report says: Constructions of 52 government primary school buildings in six southern districts of Barisal Division have been completed recently.

The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned Taka 5,70,76,396 for construction of the school buildings.

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) provided financial support for the project.

Of the total, 20 government primary schools have been constructed in Barisal district, three schools in Patuakhali, 11 schools in Pirojpur, six schools in Jhalakathi, four schools in Barguna and eight schools in Bhola district.

Another report adds: The World Health Day was observed in this district as elsewhere in the country on Wednesday.

Local administrations chalked out elaborate programmes in observance of the day. The theme of the day this year was 'take care of your health: resist carelessness and jealousy.'

The programme included morning walk, competition for men and women over 40 years, cleanliness campaign, student rally, drawing competitions, health education exhibition and baby show.

Notes from Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Apr 26: Adulteration of foodstuff is posing health hazard to the people of the district for a long time, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that the shopkeepers, grocers and wholesalers dealing in milk, ghee, oil, rice, flour, sugar, tea, butter and turmeric powder are adulterating the commodities freely.

Local people said pure mustard and coconut oil are hardly available in the market.

The Poursava authorities and the local health and sanitary officials are allegedly taking no steps to check the rampant adulteration of foodstuffs due to mysterious reasons.

Tk 50,000 property gutted

Our correspondent says: Property worth about Taka 50,000 was burnt ashen at Gopalganj village under Rajotr thana of the district recently.

It is learnt that the fire originated from kitchen at the house of one Shajahan Hossain and it spread to the neighbouring areas. The belongings of the inmates were burnt to ashes.

Saving campaign begins

A week-long saving campaign began at Madaripur DC conference room recently.

Organised by District National Savings office, Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sattar Miah inaugurated the campaign. The function was also addressed among others by Nurul Alam Chowdhury, SP of Madaripur, Khalilur Rahman Khan, Chairman of Madaripur Pourashava, and Mosharraf Hossain Baktiar.

Night post office absent

Absence of a night post office in the town has been causing inconvenience to the local people particularly the business community.

Since the town is growing gradually, the present post office which remains open from 10 am to 1 pm cannot cope with the heavy load of postal transaction. Many people have to go back disappointed everyday as they cannot contact the busy officials.

The business community is facing problem in carrying out their daily transactions due to absence of a night post office.

The town dwellers have urged the postal Department to look into the matter and set up a night post office in the Madaripur town immediately.

Commissioners take oath

The newly elected Madaripur Pourashava chairman and commissioners have taken oath at a ceremony held at pourashava office recently.

Use of firewood as fuel unabated

Despite government ban of firewood is being used as fuel in different brick-fields of the district.

It is gathered that about 8 brick-fields have been set up in different part of the Arial Khan river of Madaripur.

Firewood and bamboo roots are widely used in the brick-fields as fuel. Piles of firewood and bamboo roots are found in every brick-field.

Coal is stockpiled in stockyards. But the brick-fields owners are interested in using firewood and bamboo roots in the ovens. Due to this tendency massive cutting of trees is found in the rural areas.

Govt taking projects to make youths self-reliant

JESSORE, Apr 26: Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam said that extensive programmes were being launched by the government for creating self-employment opportunities and boosting production in all fields with a view to solving unemployment problem as well as ensuring economic emancipation of the masses, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest at the inaugural function of Jessore Jubo Proshikkhan Kendra Saturday.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Bhuyan Rafiuddin Ahmed the function was also addressed, among others, by Prof. Farida Rahman MP and Director General of Youth Development Department Lt Col (Retd) Zainul Abedin.

Besides, three youth training centres of Savar, Rajshahi and Sylhet another four centres are being established newly in four places of the country. Jessore centre is one of the four centres which will provide training to 400 unemployed youths on poultry, dairy and pisciculture with modern technology in four batches a year.

Later, the minister addressed three separate public meetings at Narayanpur, Sreepur and Bazar Gopalganj under Jhenidah district.

Local MPs Moshir Rahman, Abdul Wahab and Shahiduzzaman also spoke on the occasion. The minister visited the recently completed re-excitation work of about four km long Chitra river to Bhidribeel, Poampur Canal under Jhenidah.

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Work on 53 uplift projects progressing fast

NETRAKONA, Apr 26: The work of a total 51 development projects taken up under food for works programme of the government is progressing fast in nine thanas under Netrakona district, reports BSS.

According to an official source, about 1,757 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for execution of the projects.

Of the total 51 projects, eight project were taken up in Mahanganj, fire projects in Barhatta, one project in Khaliyajury, 16 projects in Kendua, five projects in Purbadhaka, two projects in Durgapur, four projects in Netrakona sadar, three projects in Madan and seven projects in Atpara thana, the source said.

Another report adds: Work on two projects under Food for Work Programme is going on in full swing in Agailjhara and Bakerganj thana of Barisal district in the current season.

According to an official source, the World Bank has been financing the projects taken up by Bangladesh Water Development Board. Over 1,000 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned for implementation of the projects.

The projects are construction of 12 kilometres long embankment in Agailjhara thana and re-excitation of 15 kilometres long canal in Bakerganj thana.

JHENIDAH: The abandoned morgue at Sailkupa thana of the district. — Star photo

Skin disease, stomach ailments break out

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, Apr 26: Skin disease and stomach ailments broke out in an epidemic form in the town and different villages in 9 thanas of Kurigram district.

The physicians said that patients with intestinal disorder and itching are coming to their chambers regularly.

Adulterated edible oils such as ghee, butter oil, mustard oil and milk, being freely sold in the local and village markets, are the main causes of the outbreak of the diseases.

Besides, sale of unwholesome eatables in hotels and restaurants have worsened the situation.

It is alleged that the unscrupulous traders are indulged in this repulsive practice under the nose of municipal authorities.

Three to suffer life-term for murder

MADARIPUR, Apr 26: Two people were sentenced to life term and another one to two years rigorous imprisonment on charges of killing a man, court sources said Thursday, reports UNB.

According to the court, Mohammad Yusuf Bepari and Chan Miah Bepari were sentenced to life term and fined Taka 5,000, in default, to suffer one year more RI while Chunnun Bepari was convicted to two years and fined Taka 500, in default, to suffer one month RI more.

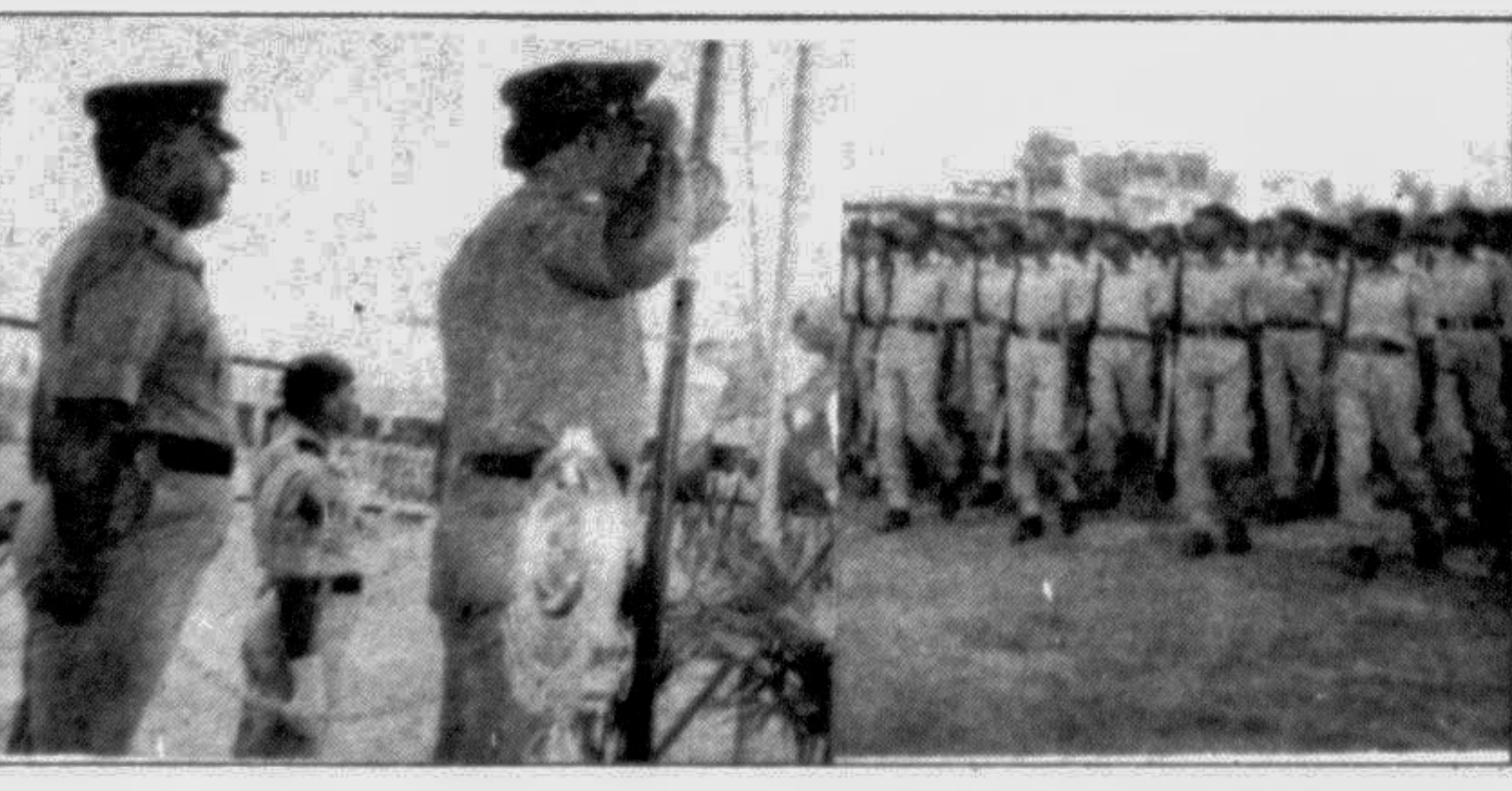
According to the prosecution story, the accused brutally killed Chhabad Ali (45), son of Jomuddin Bepari of Karnapara village in Kalkina thana on

March 19, 1992 following a dispute over a plot of land.

A case was filed against 16 people in this connection.

The District and Sessions Judge Sheikh Rezwana Ali after examining the witnesses and records punished the three accused and acquitted 13 others last week.

Our Sathkhira Correspondent adds: S-jhendur Kumar Biswas, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sathkhira convicted one Abdus Sabur of village Boukhola under Tala thana and sentenced him to suffer life-term and fined of Taka 10,000 in default RI for one year more on charge of killing his wife recently.



RANGPUR: Mirza Rakibul Huda, DIG of Police, Rajshahi Range taking salute at a passing out parade held at the Rangpur Police Training Institute recently. — Star photo