

National

District roundup

COX'S BAZAR

21 hurt as cops, Rohingya refugees clash

May 3: A clash between police and the supporters of Rohingya Repatriation Committee in Ukhia Tuesday left at least 21 people, including six cops, injured, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted at Balukhali Customs Gate when police tried to remove a heavy blockade put up by the Committee activists on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway to make its down-to-dusk hartal a success. The hartal, called by the Committee to press for its one-point demand for early repatriation of about 2.22 lakh Rohingya refugees — was observed partially.

Of the injured, Azizur Rahman (14) was admitted to Ukhia Health Complex with bullet wounds while a police constable, Anwar Hossain (32), was rushed to Sadar Hospital with a serious head injury.

Police fired at least 44 rounds during the clash which lasted for about half an hour from 1.30 pm.

Meanwhile, police last night arrested 12 Rohingya refugees, eight from Balukhali camp-2 and four from Ukhia Kutupalong, on charge of terrorist activities.

DINAJPUR

Mobile courts register 152 cases

May 3: Thirteen mobile courts registered 152 cases and realised fines of Taka 33,480 from the owners of various shops and establishments of six northern districts for not using metric weighing system, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the drives were conducted in different hats and bazaars of Sadar and Tarash thanas of Sirajganj district, Shibganj and Dhubchachia thanas of Bogra district, Sadar and Chilmari thanas of Kurigram district, Sadar, Haki-mpur and Khanthana thanas of Dinajpur district, Sadar and Balladangi thanas of Thakurgaon district and Sadar and Kaunia, thanas of Rangpur district.

The drives were launched during the first half of the current month.

139 cases were disposed of on the spot while 13 complicated cases were referred to the courts of the respective areas, the source said.

The drives were jointly conducted by district and thana administrations, police and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution.

SATKHIRA

One run over by speeding truck

May 3: A man was run over by a speeding truck near Palaspole School in the town on Satkhira-Khulna road Saturday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdul Razzaque (45) of Kapsanda in Assasuni thana of the district.

Police said the truck (Khulna Metro Ta-116) ran over him in the evening while he was crossing road. He died on the spot.

The driver managed to flee along with the truck.

A case was registered with the police.

JAMALPUR

Police action on Nirmul body protested

May 3: Speakers at a meeting here Tuesday protested Sunday's police action on Nirmul Committee supporters in Dhaka and said the government was resorting to "undemocratic and autocratic" acts under the garb of democracy, reports UNB.

They demanded immediate execution of the Gano Adalat (people's court) verdict on Jamaat chief Golam Azam for his "war crimes."

Held at Bakultala in the afternoon as part of the central programme of countrywide demonstration, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Mirza Azam, MP, district Awami League General Secretary Rezaul Karim and Sramik League leader Abdul Hossain. District AL President Advocate Matiur, Rahman presided over the meeting, organised by the district chapter of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee. Earlier, they brought out a procession which paraded the main streets of the town.

Two persons have been arrested in his connection.

LALMONIRHAT

Tk one cr smuggled goods seized last month

May 3: Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka one crore from different parts of the district and arrested 10 smugglers in the last one month till April 15, reports UNB.

The seized goods included saree, wine, sugar, spices, cycle and cycle parts, grapes, apple, salt, masur dal, potato, jute seeds, tobacco, glass, steel plate and bowl, dry fish, blouse piece, cattle and kerosene.

The seized goods were deposited to the local customs godown and 40 cases were filed in five thanas of the district.

MAULVIBAZAR

Young girl commits suicide

May 3: A young girl of village Dastila of Rajnagar thana of the district allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, reports UNB.

Barbes Begum (20), daughter of Noor Miah of the village killed herself by taking poison on April 15. The reason behind the suicide could not be known.

A case was filed with the police.

Another report adds: The election of the executive committee of Nabiganj Press Club for the term 1993-94 was held Friday.

M R Chowdhury Selim and A T M Nurul Islam were elected as president and secretary respectively of the club.

Abdus Sattar and Abdul Qayyum were also elected vice presidents.

COMILLA

26 alleged smugglers held

May 3: Bangladesh Rifles of 29 battalion arrested 26 alleged smugglers and seized contrabands worth about Taka 62.57 lakh in the first quarter of the current month, reports UNB.

BDR sources said the goods seized while being smuggled into the country worth about Taka 61.80 lakh included Indian sarees, spices, cycle and cycle parts, salt, timber and luxury items.

Those goods seized while being smuggled out of the country worth about Taka 77,610 included old garments, brass utensils, cables and electronic goods.

Another report adds: BDR seized smuggled timber worth about Taka 72,000 from a truck near Cantonment market here on April 20.

Acting on a tip, BDR stopped the truck at the Cantonment market and recovered 144 cft Indian timber. Two people were also arrested in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA

3 get 10-yr RI for dacoity

May 3: Three people were sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for committing a dacoity, court sources said here on Sunday, reports UNB.

The convicts Abdul Khaleque, Shova Miah and Mon Miah were also fined Taka 5,000 each or in default, to suffer one year more RI.

According to the prosecution story, the accused stopped a bridal party coaster (Dhaka Metro Cha-8192) bound for Madhyapara from Akhaura on the way on March 13, 1991 and looted valuables including ornaments worth about Taka 30,000 at gun point.

A case was registered and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against 11 people.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Khademul Islam after examining the witnesses and records in a judgement on April 15 punished the dacoits and acquitted eight others.

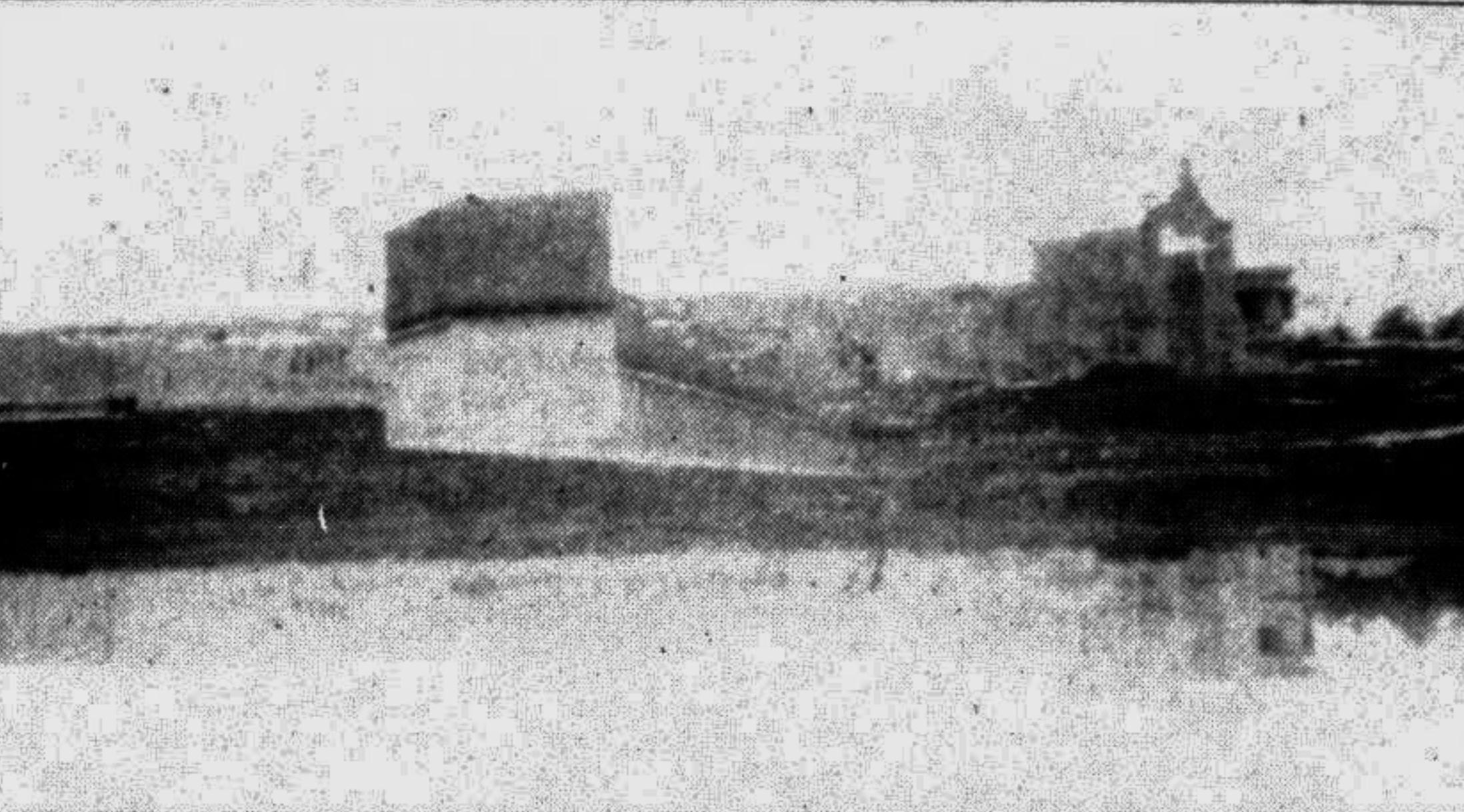
KUSHTIA

Abducted girl rescued

May 3: One girl, Rozy (14), abducted from Mazapara on Thursday morning, was recovered by police at noon the same day from Courtpara area of the town, reports BSS.

Police said, she was abducted by miscreants from Mazapara area. On secret information police raided a house at Courtpara and recovered the girl.

Two persons have been arrested in his connection.



MADRIPUR: Construction of the local swimming pool, which was started a decade ago, has not yet been completed. —Star photo

Shortage of ARV vaccine

Hydrophobia kills 15 in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, May 3: At least 15 people died of hydrophobia in the district due to want of anti-rabies vaccine, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said the number of patients attacked and bit by the rabid dogs have now exceeded 100.

It is learnt that on an average 200 people are bitten by the dog in the district in every week. Of them, 50 people go to the village quacks (kabiraj) for treatment and the rest come to the hospital and health complexes to collect vaccines.

Health officials of the city corporation said a large number of people from Pabna, Bogra, Sirajganj, Rangpur, Naogaon and other northern districts also come to the divisional headquarters to collect the vaccine.

But due to the scarcity of the vaccine for the last six months the death toll is on rise. City Corporation sources said at least 50 courses of vaccine were needed in the city daily but the they can provide only 4 to 5 courses.

The sources said Public Health Institute, the only manufacturing agency of the vaccine, is on the verge of closure.

for want of raw materials and administrative irregularities.

To meet the growing demand the vaccine had been imported from neighbouring India for the time being which was also stopped for unknown reason.

As a result, the crisis of ARV vaccine persists all over the

country.

The Institute stopped supply of the vaccines to other districts. Only a man with valid prescription can get the vaccine from the Institute directly, it is learnt.

Another report from Sherpur adds: The hospitals and health complexes have been facing acute shortage of anti-rabies vaccine intensifying the sufferings of the rabid-dog victims.

Hospital sources said some 100 people were attacked by the rabid dogs during the last three months but they could not yet receive anti-rabies vaccine due to its scarcity.

Municipal authorities alleged that no step has yet been taken for immediate supply of the vaccines to the local hospitals even after repeated appeals made to the higher authorities.

The patients said the vaccine is rarely available in the open market the price of which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people.

Local elite said the vaccine should be made available in the market at fair prices beside providing it to the hospital.

Chicken pox breaks out alarmingly in Moulvibazar, Sherpur

MOULVIBAZAR, May 3: Chicken pox has broken out in an alarming proportion in various parts of the district creating panic among the common people, reports UNB.

With the onset of the dry season about 200 people in all the six thanas have been attacked by the disease. The worst affected areas are Rajnagar, Kulaura, Kamalganj, Barleka and Sremangal thanas.

Children were found more prone to chicken pox. Specially children of the poor family are the worst sufferers as their parents can not afford to manage diet and medicine for them, local people said.

The affected people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to check the menace.

Another report from Moulvibazar says: Private tuition has become a commercial practice in Moulvibazar town and six thanas of the district.

Local people alleged that

Strive for an independent judiciary: Menon

CHITTAGONG, May 3: Bangladesh Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon on Monday called upon the lawyers to unite

to establish an independent and impartial judicial system to make the country's independence meaningful, reported BSS.

Addressing members of the Chittagong District Bar Association at the Bar Library premises Menon said, without establishing rule of law in the society, we cannot institutionalise democracy achieved through long nine years of movement.

He said the government was yet to ensure independence of judiciary though it pledged time and again to separate judiciary from the executive.

Science students informed that it has become impossible to obtain good marks without the aid of private tutors for having clear conception and thorough knowledge on the topics.

teachers of both the government and non-government schools and colleges are engaged in private tuition to earn extra money.

The guardian alleged that the teachers hardly teach the students sincerely in the classrooms. As a result, the students find it difficult to understand their lessons in the classes and the guardians are compelled to engage private tutors.

Most of the students enrolled in primary and secondary schools and colleges usually employ their school teachers as house tutors for intensive studies to do good results in the examinations.

Local elite feel that private tutorial practice has become an extra professional business of the teachers.

The science teachers get a large number of students for coaching in batches. Teachers of English and Accounting subjects also coach a good number of students in batches.

Private coaching by the teachers in batches usually starts before and after the school hours. Teachers receive handsome amounts for private coaching, it is learnt.

Private coaching is also being practised in the higher secondary and degree levels for securing good results in practical subjects.

Science students informed that it has become impossible to obtain good marks without the aid of private tutors for having clear conception and thorough knowledge on the topics.

Notes from Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 3: Bumper IRRI and boro production is expected in "Chandpur Irrigation Project" and Matlab "Meghna-Dhagoda Irrigation Project" during the current season. The prospect of crop is bright in these two projects.

About 3 lakh acres of land have been brought to cultivate high yielding variety of IRRI crops in these two projects.

Bus journey hazardous

Bus journey on Chandpur-Comilla road has become hazardous.

Overloading of buses has become a daily affair. The passengers are even allowed to travel on the roof of the buses. Moreover, the bus conductors realise fare from the passengers at an exorbitant rate. They also misbehave with the passengers.

It is reported that the bus drivers do not maintain any time-table.

Sometimes the drivers, drive their vehicles at a high speed that accident may occur at any time.

Mushroom growth of hotels, restaurants

Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in all over the town is posing health hazard.

With the increase of population of the town, these hotels and restaurants have been constructed beside roads and lanes.

It is reported, most of these hotels and restaurants are dirty and unclean. Food is prepared and stored in most unhygienic condition. There are some hotels without licences. Health and municipal administration are not paying any attention to this menace.

The patients said the vaccine is rarely available in the open market the price of which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people.

Local elite said the vaccine should be made available in the market at fair prices beside providing it to the hospital.

It is reported young people are attracted to the shows in increasing numbers leaving an impact on the society. School and college going students often dropped their classes to see the obscene films.

Shows of obscene movies unabated

Obscene movies and blue-films are being shown indiscriminately and with impunity by local cinema halls and video shops causing concern to the people.

It is reported young people are attracted to the shows in increasing numbers leaving an impact on the society. School and college going students often dropped their classes to see the obscene films.

Power failure erratic

Power disruption and load-shedding have become a regular feature at Chandpur town and adjoining areas causing much inconvenience to the people.

It is reported that not a single day is left without power disruption. Almost in every night electricity goes off plunging the entire town into darkness. Erratic power supply has also affected the production in the local mills, factories and work-shops.

Savings week observed

Saving week was observed throughout the district from April 10.

In this connection, a meeting of cross section of people was held at Chandpur district saving office.

Md Yakub Ali, DC, Chandpur attended as chief guest while Kazi Amin Ahmed, Principal, Chandpur Govt College attended as a special guest.

The government sanctioned 370 metric tons of wheat for implementation of the projects, an officials source said.

Thana-wise allocation of wheat and number of projects are as follows: Lalmonirhat 70 metric tons for 38 projects, Aditmari 55 metric tons for 30 projects, Kaliganj 70 metric tons for 33 projects, Hatibandha 67 metric tons for 34 projects, Patgram 82 metric tons for 41 projects, and Lalmonirhat pourashava 16 metric tons for 10 projects.