

## District roundup

### TANGAIL

#### Educated people urged to work hard for female edn

May 4: State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman called upon the educated and affluent people of the society to come forward and work hard to expand the female education throughout the country, reports UNB.

He was inaugurating the Marthia Lindstram Nurzahan Begum Girl's High School at Dapnajor under Bashali thana here Friday. The school, with only class six and seven, opened with a total of 92 students.

There is no alternative to education for development of the country, the State Minister said.

He said, half of the country's population is women and to take the country towards progress and prosperity female education is essential, an official handout said today.

Lutfar Rahman said education is the key to all development and to increase the rate of literacy and raise standard of education, active participation of all is needed, he added.

Parliament members Begum Anwara Habib Khan, Norwegian Counsellor to Bangladesh Rower Week, one of the founder of the school Lindstram and President of Tangail BNP Hamdul Haque Mohon also addressed the ceremony.

### CHITTAGONG

#### Contributions of Sher-e-Bangla recalled

May 4: A memorial meeting held in observance of 31st death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq here on Tuesday paid high tributes to the late leader and recalled his significant contributions towards the welfare of the down-trodden people, reports BSS.

Held under the auspices of district and city chapters of Krishak-Sramik Party at its Reazuddin road office here, the memorial meeting was presided over by district chapter President Alhaj S M Bazul Haq and addressed among others, by party leaders Moulvi Khademul Islam, Chowdhury Saleh Ahmed, S A Majid, Advocate Motaher Hossain Chowdhury, and Mohammad Yusuf.

They said the late leader would be remembered for ages for his contributions particularly for the debt settlement board which had saved thousands of peasants from financial embarrassment.

They urged the people to follow the ideas of late A K Haq and to work unitedly for economic emancipation of the millions of peasants.

### LALMONIRHAT

#### Indian smuggled goods recovered

May 4: 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, masure dal, potato, jute seeds, tobacco, glass, steel plate and bowl, dry fish, clothes, 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.

### PATUAKHALI

#### Chicken pox breaks out

May 4: Chicken pox that broke out in an alarming proportion in Dumki thana claimed one life and attacked 100 others, reports UNB.

According to the doctors, the disease broke out with the advent of spring season and every day new areas are being engulfed by the disease creating panic among the people.

Children and women are the easy victims of the disease. Local people alleged that no specific medicine is available for the disease in the hospitals and health complexes. As a result they are to go the village quacks for the treatment of the disease.

They alleged that the village quacks charge exorbitant fees for the treatment which is beyond the reach of the poor people.

They urged the authorities to take immediate steps to check the spread of the disease.

### HABIGANJ

#### JCD sweeps college union polls

May 4: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal swept the students' union election of the Brindaban Government College by bagging 14 seats out of 17 on Sunday, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the rest three seats including VP went to the Chhatra League (Ba-Ka).

Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal of BCL, Enamul Haque Salim and Mahbul Islam of JCD were elected Vice President, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary respectively in the election held peacefully.

### NAOGAON

#### Eye-camp held

May 4: An eye-camp was held here at Hapania in Sadar thana of the district Friday, reports UNB.

The camp was jointly organised by Hapania Union Muk-tijoddha Sangsad and Juba Kalyan Sangstha.

Fifty cataract patients were operated upon successfully and about 1,700 patients with eye complications treated free of cost.

Bangladesh Blind Foundation offered cooperation for the treatment of the patients at the camp.

Another message adds: The office-cum-training centre of Niamatpur thana Barendra Unnayan Sangstha was inaugurated here in a simple ceremony Thursday.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### 5 of a family injured as house collapses

May 4: Five members of a family were injured when their house collapsed on them at village Shaguna in Tarash thana of the district Thursday night, reports UNB.

The local UP chairman said the thatched house collapsed due to heavy rainfall.

Of the injured, Rats (12) and Abdul Jabbar (35) were admitted to Tarash Thana Health Complex.

Standing crops in low lying areas of the thana also went under water due to incessant rain.

Water Development Board sources said, reconstruction work of Brahmaputra embankment in Kazipur thana was hampered and many parts of the underconstruction embankments washed away by the rain water.

Meanwhile, the water level in the river Jamuna started rising following the uninterrupted rain and onrush of water from upstreams, the source said.

### COMILLA

#### College principal gets 3 yrs RI for embezzlement

May 4: A college principal was sentenced to three years rigorous imprisonment for misappropriation of college fund, reports UNB.

Convict Mohammad Joyal Abedin, former Principal of Sahedbad College in Brahmanpara thana, was also fined Taka 5,000 or in default to suffer six months more RI.

Brahmanpara Thana Magistrate Court delivered the judgement on Tuesday following investigation of the case filed against the principal by Abdul Wadud Sarker, a member of the college governing body.

According to the case, the accused defalcated Tk 20,376 which he drew from the college accounts in the name of paying of salaries to the college teachers and staff.

### SHERPUR

#### Diarrhoea claims five lives

May 4: Diarrhoea claimed five lives and attacked about 150 others in Nalitabari thana during the last two weeks, reports UNB.

Civil surgeon office, however, confirmed the death of three people.

Doctors attributed the outbreak of the disease to scarcity of pure drinking water and intake of adulterated food stuff.

Begum Matia Choudhury, a local MP from Awami League, termed the situation as "alarming" and urged the concerned authorities to take proper steps for combating the water-borne disease in the affected areas.



SIRAJGANJ: The erosion by the Jamuna is rendering many families homeless at Khudbandi in Kazipur thana of the district. — Star photo

## Diarrhoea kills 30, attacks 3,000 in one month

### From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 4: Thirty people died of diarrhoea and about three thousand others were attacked by the disease in different thanas of district during the current month.

According to Civil Surgeon office sources, the badly affected areas are: Haimchar, Faridganj, Matlab, Kachua and Hajigonj. Everyday about one hundred diarrhoea patients are being treated at Matlab ICDDR'B centre. Fifty three medical teams have been working in the affected areas to check the disease.

The paucity of pure drinking water in the rural areas has been identified as the cause of the disease.

Another report says: Over 15 thousand children in the district have been suffering from malnutrition and other intestinal disease due to lack of proper medical facilities.

It is reported that normal growth of these children is being hampered for want of vitamins. About 80 per cent

children are suffering from various intestinal diseases. Scarcity of necessary medicine in all seven thana health complexes is a common feature.

It is further informed that Chandpur Modernised Hospital and other health complexes are not supplied with effective medicines to provide treatment to these affected children. The children living in the rural areas are suffering from malnutrition to a great extent.

Another report says: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been causing immense suffering to the rural people of the district. It is reported that there are about 15 thousand tubewells in the rural areas of which about 3 thousand tubewells lying out of order for a long time. These tubewells become useless due to shortage of spare parts. The rural people alleged that despite repeated appeals neither the Public Health Engineering Department nor Union Parishad took any measure to repair the

tubewells.

As a result, the rural people are compelled to take impure water from river, ponds and canals so, the rural people are usually attacked with water born diseases.

Another report adds: About 85 meritorious students of Chandpur district have been awarded scholarships by Chandpur Foundation, a voluntary social welfare organisation of the district. The scholarship holders will receive Taka 175 per month.

Md Yakub Ali, Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, Chandpur Foundation presided over the meeting. Md Nurul Huda, State Minister for Establishment was the chief guest in the meeting.

Nurul Huda distributed the scholarship cheques among the students. In this connection the meeting was addressed among others by Principal Mantiur Rahman, Dr M A Gafur, Quamruzzaman Chowdhury, Md Shafiqul Ahmed.

## Cattle disease breaks out alarmingly in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, May 4: Cattle diseases locally known as Khura and Golafula have alarmingly broken out in 7 thanas of the district causing serious concern among the farmers, reports UNB.

Farmers said with the advent of the spring season the diseases are engulfing new areas and according to a local estimate, so far, about 10,000 cattle were attacked in the region.

Local people said about 500 cattle died in Bauphal, Dasmina, Kalapara, Dumki, Galachipa, Mirzaganj and Sadar thanas. Of these, the worst affected thanas are Bauphal, Dumki and Dasmina.

The diseases cause ulceration in the hooves of the cattle and also affected throat and mouth.

Due to the outbreak of the diseases cultivation is greatly being hampered in the district.

It was alleged that necessary medicines are not available in the local market for treating the affected cattle. Milch cows and calves are more susceptible to the disease.

Another report says: An

amount of Taka one crore has been sanctioned for the construction of Barisal-Propur-Bhandaria road in the current fiscal year.

But as per an estimate Taka 51.58 crore was necessary for the overall development of the 85 km road of the region.

Earlier, the R&H division has spent Taka 17.64 crore for construction of the road, officials said.

Besides, an amount of Taka 60 lakh was sanctioned for the development of 35 km Banaripara-Kaukhali road. Earlier, Taka 2.77 crore was utilised for the development of the road.

An amount of Taka 30 lakh was sanctioned for the development of 16 km Madhbartara-Patharghata road and officials said Taka 1.42 had already been spent earlier for the road.

The government also sanctioned Taka 60 lakh for the renovation of 45 km long Rahmatpur-Mehendiganj road in Barisal division in the current fiscal year.

Official sources said an amount of Taka 36 crore is necessary for the overall development of the road. Earlier Taka 3.63 crore was spent for

repair and maintenance of the road

Another report states: Salinity in water has been increasing gradually in the southern region of the country causing rapid loss of land fertility.

Farmers said they were not getting the expected yield of crops during the last few years due to the increasing salinity, particularly in Patuakhali and Borguna districts.

They said the crisis has intensified following the adverse effect of the Farakka barrage and many rivers including Meghna, Kirtankhala, Bishkhali and Payra are losing their navigability due to weak flow of tide.

Meanwhile, shrimp culturists were reported arranging inflow of saline water for shrimp culture affecting the cropfields.

The increasing salinity, according to doctors, was also responsible for the outbreak of water-borne disease like diarrhoea, dysentery and other intestinal diseases in the locality.

Farmers urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to stop the increasing salinity in water to help boost agri-products.

## Notes from Brahman Baria

### From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, May 4: Acting on secret information, a special squad of BDR 32 Battalion in two separate raid, recovered Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka 13 lakh from Bhatshala area of Sadar thana and Nabnagar thana area of the district recently.

Recovered goods include 385 pieces of Indian sarees, 362 meters of curtain clothes, 348 meters velvet clothes and other goods.

### Rukun confce concludes

Two-day long zila 'Rukun' conference of Jamat-e-Islami held at the Al-Fesani auditorium of the town recently.

Principal Kazi Nazrul Islam Khadem Zila Amir of Jamat-e-Islami presided over the conference while professor Habibur Rahman, central Organizing Secretary was present as chief guest.

It was addressed among others by General Secretary Zila unit Rustom Ali Sarker, Publicity Secretary Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Baitulmal Secretary Mohd. Musharraf Hussain.

### AL unit meet held

The unit meeting of the Sadar thana Awami League held at the Ukil Library Hall on April 30.

In the meeting, president zila Awami League Ali Azam Bhuiyan was present as chief guest while General Secretary Zila Awami League Lutful Hal Saechu and Freedom Fighter Abdul Quddus Makhan were present as special guest. President Sadar thana Awami League Hamdul Hoque Hamdu presided over the meeting.

Advocate Syed Sirajul Islam, Amanul Hoque Sento, Al-Mamun Sarker, Abul Kalam, Shiron Khalifa, A Mattin Daru, Liton, Humayun Kabir Chowdhury and Mohd Ishaque Bhuiya spoke in the meeting.

### 10 hurt in road mishap

Ten persons were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Barora under Sadar thana of the district recently.

The mishap occurred when the driver of a Dhaka bound coach lost control and collided with a roadside tree. Seven persons including driver Abdul Mannan (55) of the coach were admitted in the Sadar hospital.

### 300 gms ganja recovered

Narcotics Control Inspector of Brahmanbaria Circle Liaquat Ullah Chowdhury in a raid, recovered 300 grams of ganja from village Charchartala under Ashuganj thana of the district recently.

In this connection, a departmental case has been filed against Shaiful Miah.

### 7 wanted accused nabbed

Police arrested seven wanted accused from village Rasulpur under Chandura Union Parishad of the district recently.

A police party led by Sub-Inspector Subash Shaha raided the village Rasulpur and rounded them up.

The arrested persons are: Ali Miah, Siddique Miah, Abdul Ghani, Fazlul Hoque, Kader and Mott Miah. Another accused Hashem Miah was arrested by town Sub-Inspector Udyan Barua from village Bhadughar under Sadar thana of the district.

### SSC candidate commits suicide

One Abdul Quddus (20) a SSC candidate, son of Abdul Alim of village Noabadi under Sadar thana of the district committed suicide by taking poison recently.

## Nor'wester lashes 2 dists One killed, 1600 houses, crops damaged

RAJBAIR, May 4: A nor'wester lashed two thanas of the district Wednesday night, killing one person and damaging an estimated 1,500 dwelling houses, witnesses said, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Zarina Khatun (55) of village Paikandi in Baliakandi thana.

The storm swept over the villages of Pangsha and Baliakandi thanas for about an hour. The thana headquarters plunged into darkness as the electricity line was snapped.

Some educational institutions of Sadar thana were partially damaged by the storm.

Another report from Jamalpur adds: Some 100 kutcha houses and standing crops on a vast track of land were damaged when a violent nor'wester lashed the Dewangaj thana on Monday.

The storm, lasted about half an hour, also blown away 50 tinshed roofs, including

Sanandabari High School, Mitali High School and Baulpara High School.

It also uprooted a large number of trees during its fury. The affected people have urged the government to provide them with relief and grants for their early rehabilitation.

Another message adds: Police rescued a young girl after a week of her abduction and arrested two alleged kidnapers from a residence of Dharmakura Bazar area in Islampur thana on Sunday.

Police said Champa (14) was kidnapped from her residence at Palabandha of the same thana by some youngsters on April 19.

On information, police raided the bazar, nabbed Mithu and Paran Biswas and rescued the girl.

A case has been filed with the police.

## Sale of bidis without bandrolls continues

### From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 4: The sale of bidis without bandrolls in all the thirteen thanas of the district is going on causing heavy loss to the government.

Many bidi factories in the district which employed hundreds of workers are selling bidis without bandrolls. Meanwhile, the sale of bidis has increased during the recent times due to the rise in the prices of different brands of cigarettes.

As per existing law Taka 37 must be paid as excise duty for each 100 packets of bidis. But the owners of the bidi factories supply their products to the markets without bandrolls, local people alleged.

Sometimes, the owners of the bidi factories use forged or used bandrolls. Besides, the actual production of the factories is not shown in the papers for evading government duties.

Local people also alleged that the owners of bidi factories were continuing their evil practices with the help of some dishonest officials. They

urged the concerned authorities to take strict measures against this malpractice.

Another report adds: Storing and processing of raw skins of the animals in residential areas of Bhairab Pourashava are posing health hazard extreme sufferings to the people and the pedestrians.

When the raw skins are salted in the open spaces adjacent to residential houses and roads, bad odour emits all along in the areas causing health hazard to the people of the town.

Every year after Eid-ul-Azha when the unscrupulous skin dealers become active in the collection of the raw skins from different areas and process the same for months together. Even they have constructed sheds for this purpose in residential areas with least consideration of the public annoyance and sufferings.



GAIBANDHA: Juyi Chowdhury, a local student, reciting poem at a function arranged on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh. — Star photo

## Problems cripple Kurigram modernised hospital

### From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, May 4: The Kurigram modernised hospital has been facing shortage of accommodation, doctors and medicines etc.

The 50-bed hospital has been running without life saving drugs and other requisite equipment.

The patients are to procure blood from outside although there is a blood bank in the hospital.

Shortage of X-ray films and technicians hampered the proper treatment of the patients in the hospital.

The doctors instead of taking proper care asked the patients to consult them at their private chambers, it is alleged.

The hospital authority has arranged a few beds in the verandah due to shortage of accommodations in the hospital. A large number of patients go back disappointed for want of seats and proper treatment.

The hospital has no requisite number of staff and supply of medicines is quite inadequate. The patients especially indoor patients buy medicines from outside at an exorbitant price. The poor patients are the worst sufferers. The number of fans and light in the hospital is inadequate to meet the demand.

The doctors of the hospital engaged in the pathological department to test blood, urine and other asked the patients to do the same from outside, although there is pathological facility with modern equipment in the hospital.

The water supply is so irregular that most of the times the patients and staff of the hospital are to drink tubewell water.

### Five Feni unions submerged

FENI, May 2: Onrush of hilly water accompanied by heavy rainfall submerged five unions in Sadar and Porsharam thanas of the district today, reports UNB.

Officials here said about 600 feet of the Mhuri embankment at four places were washed away, submerging the Feni-Porsharam road and railway track.

Standing irri-boro crops on 50,000 acres of land went under about 5 feet water and nearly 4,000 fish-ponds were also submerged.

The worst hit unions are Fulgazi, Darbarpur, Akandapur, Kazirbag and Munshirhat.



JAMALPUR: Shadupur High School of the district needs early reconstruction. The school was damaged by a recent cyclone. — Star photo