

District roundup

RAJSHAHI

Chhatra Dal leader held

May 8: A Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was arrested from near the Rajshahi University campus Wednesday midnight, reports UNB.

Police said Babul Akhter Bablu was picked up from the road at Kazla, adjacent to the campus, under section 54 for suspicious movement.

Campus sources said the arrest might be linked to incidents at the VC and the DC offices on the day.

According to a campus source, a group of students led by Bablu went to the VC's residential office at around 11 am Wednesday and allegedly passed humiliating remarks after knowing that the VC and sent five teachers to the Deputy Commissioner to talk release of six arrested Shibir men.

They also locked the VC office, the sources said.

The students then went to the DC office when the five teachers were talking to the DC at noon and also hurled abuses at the teachers.

COMILLA

Tk 1.5 lakh contrabands seized

May 8: BDR personnel seized contrabands worth Taka 1.5 lakh in a raid at Major Gant Bus Stand in Burching thana last week, reports UNB.

Acting on tips, a special BDR patrol squad of 29 battalion raided the area and seized Indian sarrees and bottles of phenidyl syrup on April 30.

None was arrested in this connection and the recovered contrabands were handed over to the local customs authorities.

RANGPUR

20 hurt as Shibir, Freedom Fighters clash

May 8: Some 20 people were injured, three seriously, in a clash between Shibir and freedom fighters in Pirganj thana headquarters on Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when the processions of the two rival groups came face to face.

They said Chhatra Shibir brought out the procession demanding immediate release of Prof Goolam Azam while the freedom fighters took to the street demanding execution of the Gana Adalat's verdict.

Both the groups during their clashes used iron rods and other lethal weapons.

Of the injured, three were admitted to Pirganj Health Complex with serious wounds.

MAGURA

Van driver killed in road mishap

May 8: A van driver was killed when a speedy truck hit him from behind on Magura-Jhenidah road near Magura Sadar Hospital last week, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the victim identified as Abu Hanif (20) was critically injured after the truck (Dhaka Na-3993) hit him while he was crossing the road. Hanif succumbed to injuries soon after admission to the Sadar Hospital.

Police also seized the truck but the driver fled the scene.

A case was filed with the police in this connection.

COXS BAZAR

Arms factories unearthed: 2 nabbed

May 8: BDR jawans discovered five arms manufacturing factories in a forest in Ramu thana of the district Thursday and arrested two persons in this connection, BDR sources said, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, a squad of BDR jawans led by Rabul Islam raided the arms factories in the forest of village Idgar and caught the two persons allegedly engaged in manufacturing fire arms.

They also recovered two pistols, barrels, lathe machine, saw, hammers and other tools.

The arrested were identified as Mohammad Hossain, 35, and Mohammad Saif, 26, of village Idgar under Ramu thana. They were sent to Ramu thana.

Earlier on April 19, BDR round another arms factory in the same area and seized arms making tools from there.

SYLHET

One held while impersonating cousin at SSC exam

May 8: A student impersonating his cousin at the SSC Examination was arrested from Sylhet Government Pilot School centre Thursday, reports UNB.

Nazrul Islam of Tikarpara village in Kotwali thana, who passed the SSC Examination in First Division last year, was appearing at the exam on Social Science for Mohammad Delwar Hossain, a private examinee, by changing photograph in the admit card.

Magistrate SM Jahangir Hossain Chowdhury challenged Nazrul Islam and caught for the examination fraud. He was handed over to police.

KUSHIYA

Release of JP leaders demanded

May 8: Local unit of Jatya Jubo Sanghati brought out a procession in the town in protest against the arrest of Zilla Parishad Chairman Ahsan Habib Lincon, reports UNB.

Ahsan Habib, a former MP, was arrested from a local Chinese restaurant while he was holding a meeting there.

The procession also demanded the release of former President HM Ershad and Jatya Party Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Titu.

PABNA

SSC examinee commits suicide

May 8: An SSC examinee committed suicide after his parents reportedly scolded him for poor performance in Mathematics paper, reports UNB.

Mohammad Sobhan (15) of Baramatta village in Sadar thana took insecticide Saturday night. He was rushed to the Sadar hospital where he died this (Sunday) morning.

GAZIPUR

Discussion on edn, uplift ends

May 8: A discussion on 'education and development' was held on Thursday at Ajmatpur Adarsha High School under Jangalia union of Gazipur district, reports BSS.

Noted economist and chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed was present at the discussion as chief guest.

Presided over by Ashraf Khan, former upazila chairman of Kaliganj, the meeting was addressed among others by journalist Zagul A Chowdhury, journalist Nazimuddin Mostan, litterateur Syed Abdul Maksud, Headmaster of Ajmatpur High School Imamuddin Khan and former chairman, Jangalia Union Parishad Tajul Islam Khan.

Dr Kholiquzzaman said mass-education was a must for overall economic development of the country. He stressed the need on technical education and vocational training to solve the problem of unemployment and poverty.

FENI

Indian timbers worth Tk 2 lakh seized

May 8: BDR personnel seized 350 CFT Indian timbers worth about Taka 2 lakh in two separate raids in Chhagalnada thana last week, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, BDR jawans conducted the raids at a saw mill at Banglabazar and some ponds at Rayjurnia area on April 24 and seized the timbers.

A case was filed with the local thana and the timbers were handed over to the customs office.

NARSINGDI

One held with revolver, three rounds of bullets

May 8: Police recovered a revolver and three rounds of bullets and arrested a man from Shanti Bhatwala village in Sadar thana Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Akhter Hossain (20) of the village and recovered the arms and ammunition from his possession.

A case was filed with the Sadar thana police.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): The Vice-Chancellors of eight universities of the country pose for a photograph just before the meeting of the VC's Standing Committee held at the guest room of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recently. — Star photo

Heavy rainfall in Habiganj, Maulvibazar

Flood situation deteriorates

HABIGANJ, May 8: Flash flood situation in the district deteriorated with continuous downpour and onrush of water from hilly areas of Tripura across the border, reports UNB.

According to an unofficial estimate, the flooding submerged about 60,000 acres of land, damaging IRRI-boro and transplanted Aman crops.

District flood information centre recorded rise in river Khowai, Sonai and Sutang, submerging vast areas in 19 unions.

Crops in about 2,000 acres of land in sadar and Bahubal thanas were destroyed by water pouring through the hole made by local people in the Gungajuri Haour Development Ferry Embankment.

Deputy Director of the District Agriculture Extension Department Rafiqul Islam said crops in 5,000 acres of land in the Sadar thana were submerged.

Meanwhile, local people said recurrence of untimely flood was due to incomplete embankment of river Khowai.

About 25 kilometres of the Khowai Embankment Project were yet to be completed. The project was taken up in 1974.

When contacted, the district officials, however, disapproved of press reports on submerging the highway linking the capital by flood water.

A report from Maulvibazar adds: A boy drowned Thursday as the flood situation in the district took a serious turn due to heavy rainfall and pouring water from the hills.

Goalbari UP Chairman and Kutu Mia (8) of Montreogaon drowned in the flood water.

Standing crops in 14 unions of Kulara, Rajnagar and Kamalganj thanas were totally damaged and in another 8 unions damaged partially as the water level of river Monu, Dhalai and Juri kept rising.

Road communications of Kulara and Baralekha thanas with the district headquarters remained disrupted.

Agriculture officers said crops in 2,050 hectares in four thanas had been destroyed by the flash flood.

A Water Development Board source said breaches were detected at 11 points on the Monu embankment.

The full extent of damage has not yet been assessed by the district control room.

Local people said crisis of drinking water was acute in the flood-affected areas.

Meanwhile, property worth about Taka 4 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire which broke out this morning at Thanabazar in Sadar thana.

Witnesses said the fire, originating from an electric short-circuit, damaged a shop of Ashfaq Khan. Three other houses were also partially damaged.

Target of IRRI-boro, wheat farming not achieved

LALMONIRHAT, May 8: Target of Irri-Boro and wheat cultivation in the district was not achieved during the current season, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said it set a target of 14,000 hectares of land to bring under Irri-Boro cultivation. But high prices of fertilizer and other inputs, closure of 135 deep tubewells and frustration from the low price of paddy, the large number of farmers abstained from cultivating Irri-Boro paddy.

As a result, 12,657 hectares of land were brought under cultivation during this season. The sources said about 33,370 metric tons of paddy is expected to be produced against a target of 36,580 metric tons.

The cultivation of wheat also suffered a set back due to the same reason. About 5,200 hectares of land had been brought under wheat cultivation against the target of 7,000 hectares during the season. The expected production has been refixed at 11,000 metric tons against the original target of 13,300 metric tons.

It is learnt that of the total 208 deep tubewells in the district only 73 are in operation. Of the total, 96 deep tubewells have been installed by the Grameen Bank of which only 15 are functioning. The remaining 81 could not be operated due to non-settlement of shares with farmers.

The other deep tubewells of BADC are yet to be sold to the farmers.

Our Barisal Correspondent says: About 75 thousand hectares of land has been brought under rabi crops cultivation during the current season in Patuakhali district.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) and Agriculture Extension Department (AED) have distributed necessary seeds, fertilizers insecticides and other inputs among the farmers of this district.

UNB report from Maulvibazar says: A scheme has been taken up to bring 55,200 hectares of land under Aus cultivation in the district in the current season.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said about 29,000 hectares will be brought under high yielding variety and the rest 26,200 under local variety drawing the production target at 84,200 metric tons.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation will provide seeds, fertilizer and other necessary inputs to the farmers at fair prices to achieve the target.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks will also disburse necessary loans to the growers to boost production, officials added.

Another report from Agrivarsity adds: Bangladesh Agricultural University has developed a new high yielding variety of rice named BAU-16 through its Coordinated Genetic Research for Crop Improvement Project.

A ten-member evaluation team headed by the Additional Director (Field Operation Wing) of the Directorate of

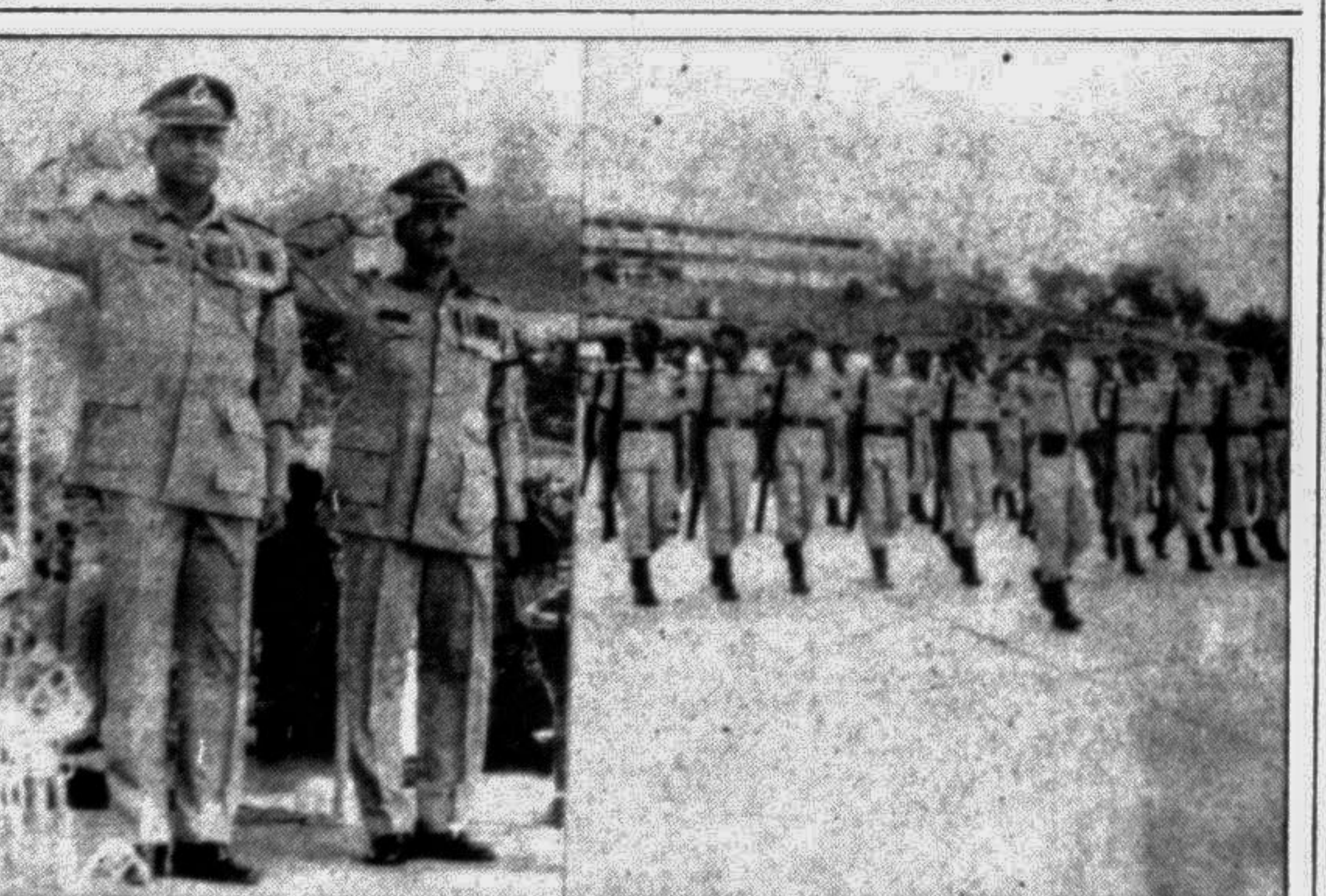
Agricultural Extension, observed its field performances in respect of varietal characteristics and yield in the last transplanted Aman season. They had recommended the variety to accord approval as a new HYV rice after a final field trial in various transplanted Aman regions of the country.

The BAU-16 has been developed from the cross between Nizershall and IR578-175-2-2. During the last transplanted Aman season, its average yield in five farms of Mymensingh and Dhaka zones was recorded at 4.09 tons per hectare which was comparatively higher than BR-4 and almost similar to that of BR-11.

The advantages of the newly developed rice variety are that it is reasonably immune or resistant to most of the normally occurring diseases and insect pests. Its flag leaves are erect and remain green even after maturity resulting in quite higher rate of grain filling and quite lower percentage in grain sterility.

Moreover, it gives higher yield in close spacing as well as in early and also in late sowing or transplantation. So, it could be successfully cultivated in the flood-prone areas of Bangladesh.

Prof AK Patwary of the department of Genetics and Plant Breeding of BAU, who has developed the rice variety said it has the potency of giving higher yield with no or minimum fertilizer as well as with no or minimum irrigation, said a BAU press release.



Maj Gen Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Director-General of Bangladesh Rifles, taking salute at the passing out parade of the 45th BDR at Chittagong Baitul Izzat Rifles Training Centre and School on May 8. — PID photo

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 8: The district Anti-corruption Bureau filed a case against former UP chairman with Pakundia thana for alleged defalcation of government money.

According to the Bureau Office, during the financial year 1989-90, Abdul Hekim, Chairman, Egarsindhur Union withdrew Taka 11,286.00 for the construction of ringpipe under union work programme and later misappropriated the whole amount without doing any work.

Besides, the chairman realised Taka 35,600.00 from the authority of Agrani Bank, Mithkolia branch as rent out of which Taka 9,700 was later misappropriated.

On receiving complaints, Md Fazlul Hoque, Assistant Inspector, district Anti-corruption Bureau investigated in to the matter and filed a case against him with the Pakundia police station recently.

Minor girl drowned

Yasim (4), daughter of Abdul Ali of village Dampara Sahebati in Nikli thana of the district died of drowning recently.

On the day of incident, Yasim went out of the house without the knowledge of her parent and slipped into the pond. Later her body was found floating in the pond.

Boy commits suicide

A 12-year-old boy named Tajuddin of village Bahadia Purbapara in Pakundia thana committed suicide recently.

Tajuddin took poison when he came to know that his father's land was sold by his father.

On getting information, police went to the village and recovered the body and sent it to the Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for postmortem.

A case of unnatural death had been logged with the police.

Tk 60000 stolen from rly booking counter

Railway tickets of Urmil Aruna and Urmil Gudhult intercity trains of Taka 60,000 were stolen away from the booking counter of Bhalrab Railway Station recently.

Booking clerks Ali Akbar and Abdul Majid who were on duty in the counter have been put under temporary suspension.

Besides, departmental enquiry and a case in this connection was registered with Bhalrab GRP thana.

One commits suicide

One Fatema Begum (24) of village Bateswar under Belabo union committed suicide by hanging herself in her house recently.

According to family sources, she was suffering from acute gastric pain for a long time. But the cause of the suicide could not be ascertained.

Health complexes beset with problems

Most of the health complexes in the district are beset with manifold problems due to lack of medical apparatus, absence of ambulance, scarcity of drinking water and shortage of medical staff etc.

Hundreds of patients come to the health complexes everyday but go back disappointed for absence of proper medicare and treatment facilities.

Most of the complexes have no X-ray machine, blood bank, dental or ophthalmic treatment facilities.

Shortage of staff is another problem in the health complexes.

Besides, paucity of drinking water, lack of proper drainage system in the complexes add the sufferings of the patients.

It is alleged that important medicines supplied by the government are being sold to the local pharmacies by some dishonest workers.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to remove the problems and enable the health complexes to function normally.

Two young lovers held at Pabna

PABNA, May 8: Police arrested two young lovers from Shalgaria area in the town this morning Friday, reports UNB.

Milon Kumar Saha (19) and Dipa Karmaker (15) of Collegepara area of Rajbari town eloped Thursday and took shelter in one of the Dipa's relative's house at Shalgaria area of the town.

Acting on a tip, police arrested the young love birds from the house and took them to custody.

Earlier, Dipa's father, Suresh Karmaker, filed a case with Rajbari police in this connection.

Five commit suicide in Pabna

PABNA, May 8: Five people including an SSC examinee allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents, police said here Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said Sultan Mahmud (30), son of Lokman Ali in Chatmohar thana committed suicide by taking poison following a family feud on Sunday.

In another incident Zeeheer Ali (40), son of Meher Ali of Kuabari village of the same thana committed suicide by hanging himself for unknown reason on the same day.

On Monday Alauddin (18), son of Mayenuddin of Mulgram village in sadar thana committed suicide by taking insecticide. Another youth, an SSC examinee Subhan (15) committed suicide on Sunday.

An unknown man aged about 32 committed suicide at Akdanta union of Atghoria thana on Sunday by taking poison.

Five separate cases were filed with the police.

Another report adds: Government has sanctioned a total of Taka 335 crore for development of highways in North Bengal region of the country under Road Communication Development Programme in the current fiscal year.

Official sources said the work on the projects has been started from last month and will be completed by June of this year.

The highways include: Kashinathpur-Paksey via Pabna, Nagarbari-Dinajpur via Bogra-Rangpur, Natore-Bogra, Rajshahi via Naogaon roads etc.

Re-excavation works of 13 canals in progress

BARISAL, May 8: Re-excavation of 13 canals covering 45.35 kilometres in ten thanas of Barisal district at an allocation of 487 metric tons of wheat is going on the full swing, reports BSS.

According to an official source about half of the work has been completed on voluntary basis and the rest under Food-for-Work Programme.

With the mass participation of 95,268 labour, a total of 2,69,766 cubic metres of earth will be removed from these canals under the programme, the source said.

When completed, about 14,479 acres of cultivable land could be brought under irrigation facilities in the canal areas.

Another report says: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) will disburse loans amounting to Taka 6,31,31,000 among 27,649 primary members including 19,244 women of 1,125 Bittahin Primary Samitees in Barisal district under Rural Development-12 Project during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, the loans were meant for rearing poultry birds and cattle, pisciculture, vegetable cultivation.

Meanwhile, a sum of Taka 3,92,00,000/- have been disbursed among the primary members.

The programme has been undertaken for achieving self-reliance by the poor the source said.

Another report adds: A conference of BCS (General Education) teachers under six southern districts of Barisal Division was held here at Government Brojomohan University College remises on Saturday.

About 120 teachers including principals from 17 government colleges of the division participated in this conference.



CHUADANGA: Shafiqul Islam (left), a cultivator of Damurhuda, produced 5 maunds of sunflower seed on 10 kathas of land under the Seed Diversification Programme (SDP) during the last rabi crop season. — Star photo

Separate incidents take 7 lives in dists

JAMALPUR, May 8: Four persons including a minor boy were killed in separate incidents in the district recently.

One Khudeza Begum (28) of Doail union under Sarishabari thana was electrocuted at her house.

One Serajul Islam (30) was run over by a truck at Baoshibangali under the Sarishabari thana.

One Shahid (30) of Digirchar union under Islampur thana was burnt to death recently. A case was registered in this connection.

A two and a half-year-old boy Abu Taher was drowned in a pond at village Shekharvita under Jamalpur municipality.

Rangpur

UNB from Rangpur says: Two brothers, both of them school students, were run over and killed on the spot by a speeding truck at Paglapir Bazar here on Rangpur-Dinajpur highway Sunday, police and family sources said.

They were identified as Kawar Alam (12) and Ashraf Alam (15).

The victims met the tragic end when a Dinajpur-bound truck hit them from behind on their way home from school in the afternoon. They were travelling on a by-cycle.

Feni

Another report from Feni says: A shopkeeper was run over by a speeding bus at Panchgachi Bazar in Sadar thana on Feni-Majidde road Sunday.

Police said Jasimuddin (28) was crushed under the wheels of a Chittagong bound bus while he was crossing the road.

Manikganj

Another report from Manikganj adds: Ten people were injured, three seriously, in an accident Sunday on the Dhaka-Aricha highway that created a three-hour traffic impasse on the busy road.

Some 700 vehicles from both directions had been stranded for three hours since a bus and a truck collided head-on at 11 am at Nayadind in Saturaia thana.

Six of the injured were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital, where the condition of three was stated to be serious.

Witnesses said the collision between a Dinajpur bound coach and a Dhaka-bound truck blocked the highway until the two vehicles were removed by Manikganj police and Fire Brigade at 2 pm. Some 200 long route passenger coaches and 500 minibuses and trucks were stranded due to the road blockade.

A case has been filed with Saturaia police. The drivers of both the damaged vehicles fled the scene.

Meanwhile, about 5,000 passengers from southern districts were also stranded during the period at Aricha ghat as buses could not reach there to take them to Dhaka.

400 grammes of heroin seized

RAJSHAHI, May 4: Members of 20 Rifle Battalion seized four hundred grammes of heroin from a passenger bus at Bidirpur of the district today, reports BSS.

Acting on a secret information, the BDR members seized the heroin searching two passengers of the bus who were coming from Chapainawabganj.

Later, the seized heroin was deposited to the Rajshahi office of Department of Narcotics Control.