

## District roundup

### NOAKHALI

#### Establishment of medical college demanded

May 9 : Noakhali Unnayan Bastabayan Parishad in a meeting held at the town hall Friday demanded implementation of their 10-point demand by June 10, reports UNB. The parishad reiterated the demand for establishment of Noakhali Medical College the foundation of which was laid by the late President Ziaur Rahman in 1978. The meeting also demanded construction of the proposed Public Library building, Agro Service Centre and Noakhali Irrigation Project. They criticised the existing quota system in government services and demanded introduction of employment in government services according to merit. The other demands include establishment of agriculture centre, drainage system, irrigation, electrification, digital telephone system, launching inter-city train services and a university in the district.

### CHAPAINAWABGANJ

#### Indian eggs hindering poultry farming

May 9 : Heavy intrusion of Indian eggs and wrong policy of the government have been hindering the smooth flourishing of the poultry farms in the country, reports UNB. President of the district poultry farm owners association, Md Rashidul Islam in a statement said Sunday that influx of Indian eggs through different border points flooded the different markets of the country. These eggs are being sold at comparatively lower prices. On the other hand, due to bureaucratic impediments in getting bank loans and high price of the poultry feed are hampering the development of the country's poultry farms, he added. He demanded the authorities to ease the bank loan system, subsidised price of poultry feed, training of poultry farm owners and stoppage of influx of Indian eggs.

### JHENIDAH

#### Miscreants kill young boy

May 9 : A young boy was stabbed to death Wednesday here at Vultia village of Sadar thana in Chuadanga district, reports UNB. The victim identified as Babul (14) was stabbed by an unknown young man while he was going to school at around 8.30 am. He died instantaneously. Police said Babul was murdered as a sequel of past enmity. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case was filed in this connection.

### MAGURA

#### Young girl receives acid burn injuries

May 9 : A young girl received serious burn injuries on her face and chest after a young man threw acid on her near Kamarkhal bridge on Dhaka-Magura road Tuesday, reports UNB. Witnesses said Akram Hossain (30) of Nagra in Mohammadpur thana threw acid on Sawpna (18) after he failed to seduce her in a local hotel where she worked for. Sawpna of Michal village in Madhukhal thana was rushed to Magura hospital in a critical condition. A case was filed with the local police. Akram remained absconding.

### COMILLA

#### Contrabands worth Tk 24.17 lakh seized

May 9 : Bangladesh Rifles of 29 battalion seized contrabands worth about Taka 24.17 lakh from different border areas in the last month, reports UNB. BDR sources said nine people were also nabbed during the period in connection with smuggling and 121 cases were filed with different police stations. The contrabands seized while being smuggled into Bangladesh were worth about Taka 24.04 lakh and those seized while being smuggled out of the country were worth about Taka 12.670. Another message adds : Initiatives have been taken to set up two schools in the town. A preparatory meeting for setting up of one primary school and one secondary school was held with Deputy Commissioner in the chair on Sunday. The meeting attended by the local elite and businessmen, decided to extend all co-operation to establish the schools. The required land for the primary school will be given by Comilla Central Jail authority and that for the secondary school by the district council.

### RAJSHAH

#### Tk 12.50 lakh Indian sarees, cows seized

May 9 : Members of 20 rifle battalion recently seized in two separate campaigns 1,935 pieces of Indian saree from water tanks and passenger compartments of a Dhaka bound train at Azim Nagar Railway Station and some cows from Kakhonhat area of the district worth Taka about 12 lakh and 50 thousand, reports BSS. The campaigns were conducted by Major Md Nasimul Gani Chowdhury and Captain Md Shawkat Ali under an operation entitled 'Cyclonic operation'.

### FARIDPUR

#### After failing to copy!

May 9 : Police arrested a private SSC Examinee here Thursday on charge of stealing out of the hall and burning answer script on Mathematics on April 26, reports UNB. Ajoy Kumar Sarker of East Khobashpara area in the town was picked up from the Faridpur Police Line Junior High School centre. When he came to the examination hall Thursday to sit for the examination on the religion paper, the invigilators charged him with the stealing of answer paper. He confessed the offence. Sadar thana magistrate rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail.

### BARISAL

#### Book fair concludes

May 9 : A four-day book fair concluded here at Aswini Kumar Town Hall premises recently, reports BSS. Organised by Barisal theatre, the book fair was inaugurated by the Divisional Commissioner M A Rashid. The publication ceremony of 'Shunnaysat Gatha Bhalyo-bashar Kabita' a collection of poems by poet Rabindra Nath Samadder was also held on the occasion.

### MYMENSINGH

#### Prof Shafiqul Islam, President of the BNP town unit speaking at a labourers meeting at the Krishnachura premises of the local railway station on May Day. From left Munjurul Haque Munju, Prof Amjad Hossain, A Quasem and Kazi Rana are also seen in the picture. — Star photo



SYLHET: The high school of Gowainghat thana was badly damaged by the severe cyclonic storm that lashed the district in January last has not yet been reconstructed causing much inconveniences to the students. — Star photo

## Kalazar kills 22, attacks 370 in two dists

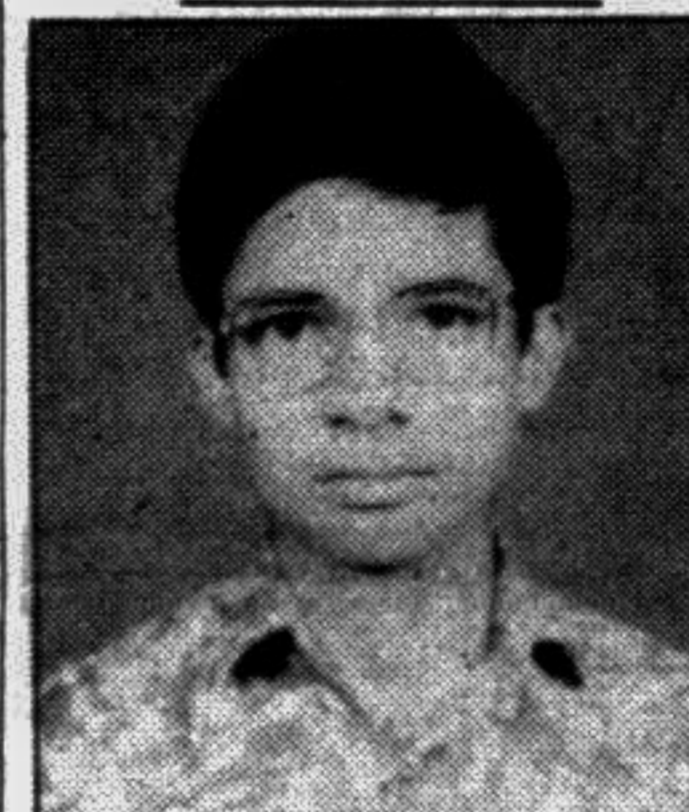
SIRAJGANJ, May 9 : At least 22 people killed and 370 others were attacked by the deadly disease kalazar in various part of greater Pabna over the last one month, reports UNB. According to sources, of the total, seven died in Sirajganj and 15 died in Pabna. Kaziipur, Chowhali, Tarash in Sirajganj and Faridpur, Atghoria, Ishurdi, Bhungura, Bera and Sujanagar in Pabna are the worst affected thanas. Among the victims, 100 were attacked in Sirajganj and the rest 270 were attacked in Pabna. The disease which has disappeared from the country two decades ago, re-emerged in various parts of the country in recent days. Doctors attributed the outbreak of the disease to change of weather pattern and deficiency of vitamins. Another report says : A young girl fell victim of acid throwing in village Bachara in Sahadpur thana Tuesday night after she rejected her suitor. The victim Monjuara (14), and her mother Saiba Begum received serious burn injuries on face and body after the accused young man Motaleb of

the same village threw acid through the window of their house. They were sleeping when Motaleb threw the acid, villagers alleged. Monjuara is the daughter of Shukhand, a day labourer. The injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. It has been learnt that Motaleb proposed to marry Sujanagar in Pabna but refused. Another report states : A farmer was killed by lightning and 25 people were injured when norwester lashed over Kaziipur and Chowhali thanas of the district on Wednesday and Thursday nights. The victim was identified as Samed Ali Pramanik (51) of Chowarcheina in Kaziipur. Of the injured, Anwar Hossain (28) was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital, two in Kaziipur and three others in Chowhali health complexes in critical condition. The rest were released after first aid. Anwer received injuries from lightning while others due to collapse of houses. Some 4000 thatched houses were also damaged in the

norwester accompanied by hailstorms with a velocity of about 50 km per hour, it was learnt. Another report adds : At least seven people were injured, one seriously, in a clash between the supporters of ruling BNP and Jamaat-Islamic at Darga road area in the town Friday. Witnesses said the clash ensued when a group of Jamaat supporters attacked some BNP activists at 10 am with hockey sticks as they were passing through the area, leaving at least seven people injured. Haripada (19), a BNP supporter, was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital, with head, hand and leg injuries, in critical condition. The clash was learnt to have occurred as a sequel to an incident on Thursday night when a group of BNP supporters allegedly beat Jamaat activist Masum (17) over the issue of seizing a seat in Mamata Cinema Hall to enjoy the film, Keymata-theke-Keymat. Police rushed to the spot soon and brought the situation under control. No case was filed with the local police in this connection.

### 'Gul' poisoning

From Our Correspondent RAJBARI., May 9 : Four workers of a tobacco powder (gul) factory in the Pangsha municipal area died of intoxication in the early hours May 4. The dead are Abul Kashem Duial, Beloon, Md Shajahan and Idris. Meanwhile, the district administration has temporarily shut down the factory bowing to demands by the local people. Orders have also been issued for investigation into the deaths of the four workers. Later, the workers of the factory brought out a procession demanding withdrawal of the order closing down the factory.



Md Ferdous Khan Shaon Shaon secures Junior Scholarship in talentpool

From Our Correspondent CHANDPUR, May 9 : Mohammad Ferdous Khan Shaon secured Junior Scholarship in talentpool from Chandpur Hasan Ali Govt High School. He also got Primary Scholarship from local Udayan Shishu Biddalaya in 1989. He is the eldest son of Prof Mohammad Hossain Khan and Mrs Shirin Akhter, the correspondent of The Daily Star, Chandpur. Flood situation in Feni worsens

Feni, May 8 : Flood situation in the district worsened with water pouring into vast areas through a breach on the embankment of swelling Muhuri river, flowing 5cm above danger level today, reports UNB. Moreover, continuous downpour and rolling water from the hilly areas submerged 10 unions of Parsuram thana, 2 unions in Chhagalnata and one union in Daganbhuytan thana, damaging crops. According to an official estimate, the flooding damaged [IRI] and Aush crops in 12,000 acres of land. About 80 km kutchra road went under water which also washed away fish from 3,000 ponds in the flooded areas. Communications between Feni and Belonia snapped while Fulgazi thana area went under water. Totally affected unions are Fulgazi, Chittoia, Darberpur, Anandapur and Munsirhat and partially affected are Sadar, Boxmahmud, JM Hat, Mirzanagar, Amjad Hat in Parsuram thana. Other partially affected areas are Sadar and Patannagar in Chhagalnata thana and Joylasker in Daganbhuytan thana. UNB Habiganj correspondent reports that the overall flash flood situation in the district remained unchanged as authorities found three breaches in Khawai riber barrage in Richi union of sadar thana. Official sources said over 16,000 acres of cultivated land had gone under flood water. Unofficial sources, however, claimed some 80,000 acres of land submerged since Monday.

## Work of Ashuganj-Palash agro-irrigation project in progress

ASHUGANJ (Brahmanbaria), May 9 : State Minister for Shipping Harun-Al-Rashid Sunday last visited the Ashuganj-Palash Agro-Irrigation Project to see its work progress, reports BSS. Project Director Mohammad Atahar Hossain briefed the state minister on the project, taken up at a cost of about Taka 13 crore 75 lakh. The project include the construction of 5 km Reinforcement Cement Concrete (RCC) canal, 67 km earth canal, 64 km secondary canal, 40 km earthen embankment, 6 sluice gates, 6 siphons, 37 regulators and control sluice, 2 cross dams, 54 bridged culverts and 61 km feeder road. So far, 2.6 km RCC canal, 2 culverts, 6 over bridges, 4 sluice gates and 12 field outlets have already been completed. After completion of the project by 1995, it would provide irrigation facilities to 50 thousand acres in the area and there by additional about 49 thousand tons of crops will be produced every year. Later, the State Minister address a public meeting organised at "Srama Kallyan Kendra" here. Ashuganj BNP unit President Jahirul Islam presided over the meeting. Among others, general secretary of district BNP unit Hamdul Haque Tukku and local BNP leaders spoke. The minister said the government gave special emphasis on proper implementation of rural-based and people-oriented development projects to build a self-reliant economy. Referring to destructive activities of some quarters, the state minister said, everybody should guard against those elements. These quarters, he said, do not want to improve the lot of the common people. He called upon all to help implement development projects in order to ensure rapid implementation of development programmes initiated by the government.

## Skin diseases in dists take serious turn

MADARIPUR, May 9 : Skin diseases have broken out in an alarming form in different parts of the district, reports UNB. Children of the poor families are the worst sufferers as their parents can not afford to buy necessary medicine for them. Local doctors attributed protein deficiency, taking of adulterated food and living in unhygienic condition to the outbreak of the diseases. The patients complained that hospital medicines find their ways in the local markets by some dishonest officials. Local people urged the concerned authority to take necessary steps to check the outbreak of the diseases on emergency basis. 2 Sarbahara Party men shot dead JHENIDAH, May 4 (UNB): Two brothers were shot and then slaughtered allegedly by outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party men at a village in Chuadanga Sadar thana today, police and local people said. Modhu (28) and Yunus (30), both cattle traders and reportedly members of outlawed Sarbahara Party, were picked up by some 20 armed people from their home at village Hasanhati in the mid-morning and taken to the bank of a nearby river. They were shot at and then slaughtered. Children of the poor families are the worst sufferers as their parents can not afford to buy necessary medicine for them. Local doctors attributed protein deficiency, taking of adulterated food and living in unhygienic condition to the outbreak of the diseases. The patients complained that hospital medicines find their ways in the local markets by some dishonest officials. Local people urged the concerned authority to take necessary steps to check the outbreak of the diseases on emergency basis. 2 Sarbahara Party men shot dead JHENIDAH, May 4 (UNB): Two brothers were shot and then slaughtered allegedly by outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party men at a village in Chuadanga Sadar thana today, police and local people said. Modhu (28) and Yunus (30), both cattle traders and reportedly members of outlawed Sarbahara Party, were picked up by some 20 armed people from their home at village Hasanhati in the mid-morning and taken to the bank of a nearby river. They were shot at and then slaughtered.



CHANDPUR: A 17-pound tumor, was removed from the body of Sankari Das (17), a girl student of Puranbazar College at the district hospital recently. The operation was conducted by Dr R K Roy, consultant of the local modernised hospital. — Star photo

## Use of current nets unabated in Patuakhali

PATUAHALI, May 9 : Current nets are widely used by the dishonest fishermen in the rivers, canals and other waterbodies of the district, reports UNB. Local people alleged that hundreds of current nets are being used by the fishermen despite the government ban. Every day huge quantity of shrimp and other fry are being caught by these people causing serious threat to the fish population. Due to the indiscriminate catching acute scarcity of fish in Amtali, Kalapara, Khepupara, Bamna, Patharghata, Chardunat, Rampal, Morolganj, Sharonkhola, Indurkani, Nazirpur, Sworupkati, Kathalia, Kaukhali, Pirojpur, Bandaria, Dashmina, Mathbaria and Mohipur is prevailing for the last few months. Local elite alleged that every day fish fry are being sold in the markets before the nose of the law enforcing agencies but no steps are being taken due to mysterious reason. They urged the authorities to strictly implement the ban on catching fry below nine inches and use of current nets to save the fish population. Another report adds : A new shoal emerged in the river Pyara of the district has become an income generating matter for the poor people as they can sell its sands to the traders. It took about 10 years to form the shoal in the river Pyara which is about five kilometre in length and two kilometre in breadth, local people said. Every day hundreds of labourers of the locality are collecting sands from the shoal and selling it to the sand traders of the district, they added. While talking to UNB, local sand traders told that earlier they used to bring sands from construction work from Sylhet, Chandpur and Mollarhat. After emerging of the shoal in the river Pyara they solely depend on its sand. Sands which are collected from the shoal of the river Pyara are no less in quality than the sands imported from other districts, they added. Some local contractors said that they are selling sands worth about Taka 30,000 every day. Besides, 20 to 25 boats are engaged in lifting sands from the river-bed every day, local people said.