

Malaria claims four more in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, May 8: Malaria claimed four lives and attacked more than 500 people in different parts of the district in last 24 hours, reports UNB.

The death toll from the disease in sadar and Dighinala thanas and Shalbon cluster villages stood at 16 in last one week, officials said here on Sunday. According to unofficial sources, more than 2,000 people were attacked by the disease during the period.

Meanwhile, district Civil Surgeon feared that the disease, caused by mosquito bite, may outbreak in an epidemic form during the monsoon. But, he said, the stock of medicines to combat the disease are sufficient.

Local people alleged the medicines sanctioned by the government were not being distributed among the affected people properly.

Tiger project yet to get the nod

From Our Correspondent SATHKHIRA, May 8: The Development Department took up a scheme at cost of Taka 10 crore to increase the number of tigers and their preservation three years ago but the scheme has not yet been approved by the authorities concerned. It is reported.

Experts estimated at that time, that there were about 500 tigers in the Sundarbans. It may be mentioned here that about 175 persons of Sathkhira, Khulina, Bagerhat, Patuakhali and Barguna districts who went to the Sundarbans to collect money, wood, goat pata and catch fish have been killed during period of last 3 years. The Royal Bengal Tigers are mainly man eaters.

The above scheme included afforestation of 125 square miles area in three different locations of the Sundarbans. A proposal for constructing observation towers in the Sundarbans was also made. The towers could further help watch the movements and activities of the tigers of the Sundarbans.

One sentenced to life for killing wife

From Our Correspondent KUSHITIA, May 8: Kushtia District and Session Judge Sultan Ahmed Convicted accused Ummat Ali on charge of killing his wife and sentenced him to life imprisonment on April 30.

The learned judge after examining witnesses in the session case found Ummat Ali son of Dabiruddin guilty under section 302 and awarded the punishment. The case in brief is that Tuntuni, 22, of Daulatpur thana was married to Ummat Ali of village Amdah of Daulatpur thana in 1992. Relation between husband and wife started deteriorating a year after their marriage. Ummat started beating his wife occasionally and divorced her twice.

But afterwards with the help of village elders, Ummat took his wife back. On the night of 29.3.93 accused Ummat started beating and at one stage strangled her to death.



SHERPUR: Defying the challenge of the impending drought farmers in Sribordi thana (left) braved sowing rice plants. Although this deep tubewell (right), an essential component of agricultural thousands more have already gone out of action due to fall in under ground water level.

Rainfall badly needed to save standing crops

KUSHTIA, May 8: Continued drought for the last six months in Kushtia and its adjoining areas has left the farmers in a precarious condition as they have failed to sow aus, jute and other crops and vegetables.

The region suffered a rain shortfall since November last. Till now there is no sign of downpour and thus it helped drying up ponds, canals, beels, ringwells other water sources and marshy land spread over throughout the district and made the agricultural land uncultivable for jute and aus paddy.

When contacted some farmers said, to cover the loss sustained during aman harvest during the monsoon they laid emphasis on boro cultivation. But due to fertilizer crisis and continuous drought the production target could not be achieved.

For a continued drought jute cultivation has also failed.

From Our Correspondent According to Agriculture Extension Department the target of jute in the district was fixed in this season at 10,630 hectare but only 3241 hectare of land have been brought under jute cultivation which is 3 per cent of the target.

Regarding aus cultivation sources of AED said that target was fixed at 47,660 hectare of land but only 3241 hectare of land was brought under cultivation which is 6 per cent of the target.

The persisting drought has also caused fall of ground water-level in the area bringing scarcity of pure drinking water as most of the hand tubewells failed to work properly. Sharp fall of ground waterlevel has also rendered most of the deep and shallow tubewells useless, while non availability of surface water rendered power pumps ineffective in more than 50 per cent areas which made irrigation extremely difficult. Sources of

AED said that there are 233 deep tubewells but only 136 are working. There are also 3000 shallow tubewells but only 2773 are working with 50 per cent efficiency due to lowering of ground waterlevel. The AED source added. They also said that there are 210 power pumps but only 94 are working for want of surface water. Thus cultivation of summer and monsoon vegetable is also being hampered by the impact of the same reason and this is noticeable in various markets where vegetable supply fell short abnormally.

Drought has also damaged mango sprout which appeared in large number in almost all mango trees of the area. All hopes of the owners of mango trees have gone with the drying up of the mango sprouts for want of rain. Drying up of rivers due to drought has also rendered the internal navigation and river communication extremely difficult.

Shibir-JCD clash leaves 15 wounded

FENI, May 8: At least 15 people were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between activists of the BNP's student front the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir, at Dagonbhuiya thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

The clash erupted at the Dagonbhuiya Kamal Ataturk High School, an SSC examination centre, following an altercation over the harassment of a female examinee who was entering the centre.

The rival groups chased one another and at one stage brought in iron rods sticks and pipe guns from their respective offices, situated nearby.

The JCD accused the Shibirites of ransacking at least three shops at the nearby market during the clash.

Witnesses said on duty police force at the centre fired shots in the air to disperse the crowd at the bazar. They also lathicharged the warring rivals. The fighting continued for about an hour.

Ansar-pirates exchange gunfire: two seriously hurt

KHULNA, May 8: Two people including an Ansar were injured in an exchange of gunfire between Ansars and pirates at Zanglar Khal of Chandpai Range in Sundarban area on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to police, when Ansars on duty challenged some passing boats in the area the pirates from one of the boats opened fire at them. The Ansars also returned fire and the gunfight continued for two hours in which ansar Abdul Malek, 32, and one Rezaul received bullet injuries.

Drought damages 50 pc crops in Rangpur zone

RANGPUR, May 8: Standing Irri-Boro crops on about 1.5 lakh hectares of land in eight districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur zone have been damaged so far due to persistent drought and lack of irrigation facilities, reports UNB.

Agricultural Extension Department sources said Irri-boro crops have been cultivated on 3.05 lakh hectares of land in these districts in the current season.

The production target has been fixed at about 7.08 lakh metric tons but the production would come down to about 4 lakh tons due to drought, the sources added.

The severely drought-hit districts are Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

The situation has turned worse due to drying up of irrigation canals, ponds, beels and rivers in the region in the on-going season.

The officials confirmed that the prevailing drought has so far damaged about 50 per cent

of standing crops in these districts and the percentage would rise to over 50 per cent if the drought continues.

Most of the shallow and deep tubewells have either been disordered or are not functioning with full capacity due to abnormal fall in ground water level.

Officials said with the fall of ground water level about 80 per cent shallow tubewells and 40 per cent deep tubewells have been rendered unserviceable in these districts.

Paddy fields in all over the areas have developed cracks due to lack of rainfall. Many farmers are cutting the sun burnt standing crops and using as fodder.

Farmers cultivated Irri-boro in most of their lands in the hope of recovering Aman crops' losses caused by the last year's drought.

Meanwhile, jute cultivation has also seriously been affected in these districts as sowing of seeds has not possible due to continued drought.

DC, Khagrachhari directs project chairmen to refund defalcated money

From Our Correspondent

(Khagrachhari), May 8: The Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari hill district has directed the project chairmen to refund the defalcated fund of Matiranga College amounting to Taka 23,12,136 immediately which was misappropriated by them.

On an allegation, an enquiry team was formed by the Deputy Commissioner of the district with the Additional Deputy Commissioner

One beaten to death in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, May 8: One person was beaten to death at Kumarkhali recently, police said.

Matiur Rahman, 24, of village Charaikole was attacked by his rivals following altercation between them regarding irrigation in their respective fields. Victim, Matiur Rahman died on the spot.

As a result of this incident there was a serious clash between two parties and five persons were seriously injured, of them two were admitted in Kumarkhali Health Complex.

A case has been registered with Kumarkhali Police Station in this connection. Dead body of Matiur Rahman has been sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

(General) as chief to find out the strength of defalcation and persons responsible for it.

A quantity of 3,14,944 kilogram (kg) of rice at the rate of taka 11.50 per kg and 1,02,140 kg of wheat at the rate of Taka 7.50 per kg, cost of both the items stood at Taka 43,87,136, was compulsorily donated to the newly established Matiranga College by poor inmates of cluster villages of the thana from September, 1992 to August, 1994. The card-holders of cluster villages would donate 2 kg each in every quota through their respective project chairmen. Out of the sale-proceeds, the chairmen deposited Taka 20,75,000.

The cost calculated as per rate of commodities was prevailing during the time of misappropriation, the enquiry report says. The money, so misappropriated, should have been deposited within ten days from May 3, failing to which drastic action would be taken, the directive said.

Witnesses said, the driver of a Gopalganj-bound bus (Dhaka BA-419) lost control of his bus and hit another bus heading for Dhaka from Barisal.

Injured persons were admitted to Moksdepur thana health complex and Gopalganj Sadar hospitals while five were admitted into Rajair thana health complex. Of the injured condition of six persons were stated to be critical.

Another report adds: At least 12 persons were injured following a collision between a llisha-bound passenger bus from Bhola and a passenger bus on Bhola-llisha road on Monday. Seven critically injured persons were admitted to the hospital.

Rajshahi city traffic mimics the capital

RAJSHAHI, May 8: Traffic jam is a regular phenomenon in the city causing untold sufferings to the pedestrians and city dwellers, reports UNB.

The city dwellers said, indiscriminate plying of rickshaws, haphazard parking of vehicles and occupation of footpaths by the small traders and vendors are the main causes behind the traffic jam.

According to sources, more than 15,000 rickshaws that are plying in the city have no licence. They are not aware of traffic rules which causes accidents and traffic jam frequently, the sources added.

Moreover, a huge number of rickshaws from the adjacent areas come to the city aggravating the situation, city corporation officials alleged.

Most of the vehicles park at several points such as Shahebbazar, Ranibazar, Newmarket and other areas violating the traffic rules.

The small traders, motor repairing and welding workshops occupy the footpaths and run their business at the very presence of the law enforcers, obstructing the movement of vehicles.

62 injured in two separate road mishaps

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 8: At least 40 persons were injured, 6 six of them seriously in a head-on collision between two passenger buses coming from opposite direction at Dinagar area under Moksdepur thana of Gopalganj district on Tuesday.

Witnesses said, the driver of a Gopalganj-bound bus (Dhaka BA-419) lost control of his bus and hit another bus heading for Dhaka from Barisal.

Injured persons were admitted to Moksdepur thana health complex and Gopalganj Sadar hospitals while five were admitted into Rajair thana health complex. Of the injured condition of six persons were stated to be critical.

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Shyampur Sugar Mills exceeds production target

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, May 8: The Shyampur Sugar Mills, the second biggest sugar producing unit in the greater Rangpur Zone has succeeded in exceeding the target of sugar production by nearly seven hundred metric tonnes worth Taka 1,86,30,000. It is now declared closed from May 1.

The mills started the crushing of sugarcane in November last with a target to produce 11,656 metric tonnes of sugar by crushing one lakh thirty four thousand metric tonnes of sugarcane for the current season.

But, the mill had produced 12,346 metric tonnes of sugar by crushing 1,45,819 metric tonnes of sugarcane in 172 working days. The recovery of sugar was on average 8.52 per cent.

It may be noted that the mill has been sold to a private industrialist at a nominal price at around Taka six crores under the government's disinvestment programme of the government owned industrial units. But the mill has properties of over Taka one hundred and fifty crores.

Hundreds of employees and

other workers of the mill being aggrieved with the government's step to sell out the mill launched a massive agitation in protest against such move and created all sorts of obstructions towards handing over the mill to the government backed purchaser since past one year.

However, a delegation of the employees union of the mill few months back met

the prime minister at Dhaka and apprised her about their grievances and urged to interfere in it and requested to

spare the mill from the disinvestment move of the government.

The prime minister acting upon their request agreed to stop the handing over procedures for one year period. The management and the employees accompanying others those involved into the functions and productions of the mill, however, started an united efforts for smoothly run the mill, without any instance of lapses to escape from the government move which seemed to have been succeeded during the current year.

Sathkhira sub-jail beset with many problems

From Our Correspondent

SATHKHIRA, May 8: The sub-jail in the district, constructed in the early part of the British rule is beset with many problems causing untold sufferings to its inmates.

The small sub-jail cannot accommodate the increasing number of convicts and under-trial prisoners. The inmates of the jail are passing their days in great distress, inmate sources said.

It has an accommodation capacity of only 72 male and 8 female under trial prisoners. But with the increase of population the number of prisoners has also increased. It is learnt

that an average about 450 prisoners of different courts of the district are kept in the jail every day.

The prisoners can not sleep at night for want of space, and finding no other alternative they pass the night standing or sitting in distressed condition in the hot weather. Mosquito in another problems for them at night.

The inmates are also subjected to serious health hazards due to unhygienic condition of the jail. The safety tank of the lavatory is very small causing environmental pollution inside the jail.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner Abdus Salam told that the jail problems would be solved in very near future as the district administration is going to take up a project for shifting and expanding the jail at a new site in the town and extending other facilities.



SHERPUR: Once a beel, now turned into a playground for children.

Chuadanga - a warehouse of criminals?

CHUADANGA, May 8: Records show that the number of criminal activities have sharply increased in the district causing deterioration of law and order, according to an UNB report.

According to a survey conducted by a social welfare organisation, at least 70 people were murdered in the four thanas of the district in the last two years. The thanas are sadar, Alamdanga, Damarrhuda and Jibanagar.

Of the total murders, 30 people were killed in 1993 and rest 40 in 1994, the survey report added.

During the period, a total of 889 crimes were committed which included dacoities, burglaries, thefts, riots and smuggling. Of them, 446 crimes were committed in 1993 and 443 in '94.

The crimes committed last year included three dacoities, 12 robberies, 13 burglaries, 64 riots, two murders, 28 offences of possessing illegal arms, 39 smugglings and 218 other crimes.

Last year, 18 extremists were also killed following in-

ternal party conflicts while 19 others were murdered by the miscreants. In 1993, 19 extremists of the outlawed, Purbabanglar Communist Party were murdered while 11 people were killed by the miscreants.

Some parts of Chuadanga district became stronghold of this outlawed party during 1993 and 1994, the report added.

Teen-age boy killed by miscreants

SAVAR, May 8: A teen-age boy was hacked to death by a gang of miscreants of Monday midnight at Gohalbari bazar area, reports UNB.

Police sources said the miscreants broke open the door of a tailoring shop of one Gobinda Sircar of the bazar and dragged its employee Mostafa, 15, to a nearby field and brutally hacked him to death.

The victim was a student of class seven of Baidgram High School.

Law and order deteriorated throughout the district during January, 1993 to July, 1994 as miscreants and the outlawed party members created a reign of terror in many parts of Alamdanga, sadar and Damarrhuda thanas.

During 1993 a total of 70 fire arms and 252 rounds of ammunition were recovered.

Meanwhile, huge quantity of illegal arms and ammunition were seized by the police from different places of four thanas of the district last year.

The recovered illegal arms and ammunition included 73 arms including two pistols, two revolvers, 20 guns, 13 shutter guns, 17 pipe guns, 13 cut-rifles and six rifles. The recovered ammunition included 114 rounds of 303 rifle bullets, 110 rounds of gun ammunition, 6 rounds of SLR

bullets and 5 rounds of revolver bullets. Besides, some other lethal weapons were also seized last year which included one Chinese axe, two randaos, one dagger, spare parts of pipeguns and two magazines.

Advertisement for 'তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোং লিঃ' (Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd.). It includes a logo, contact information, and a table with columns for 'ক্রমিক নং', 'সম্পন্ন নং', 'মাসিক বিক্রয়', 'মাসিক বিক্রয়', 'মাসিক বিক্রয়', and 'মাসিক বিক্রয়'.

Advertisement for 'Asphaltic Bitumen Plant' by Eastern Refinery Limited. It includes details about the plant, contact information, and a notice for an international re-tender for 4000 M. Tons CRS Coil in two sizes. It also mentions 'International Tender No. ER/ABP/PUR/FP-28/95 (Re-Tender)' and 'Notice for Import of 4000 M. Tons CRS Coil in two sizes'.

Advertisement for 'Usmania Glass Sheet Factory Ltd.' located at Kalurghat I/A, Chittagong-4212. It features an 'International Tender for Import of one Hammer Crusher Mill & one Jaw Crusher Machine'. The advertisement includes a table with columns for 'Sl. No.', 'Name of the Materials & Tender No.', 'Mode of Delivery', 'Earnest Money', 'Value of Tender', and 'Opening Date & Time'. It also states that documents with detailed specifications and conditions will be available in the Office of the Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dikusha C/A, Dhaka.