### Cerebral Malaria spreading fast in Sylhet, Sunamganj

From Iqbal Siddiquee

In Sylhet district, the disease has been spreading fast in the villages in Gowainghat, Jaintapur, Companyganj, Kanaighat and parts of sadar thanas. Official sources admitted only 96 deaths in the district. It include 52 in Gowainghat, 36 in Jainpur, 10 in Companyganj and one in sadar thana. The Civil Surgeon of Sylhet said that, 13 medical teams were working in the affected areas. The total number of malaria patients in the district is 40,609, the source added. He however informed that, there was sufficient stock of medicines in the district. The chairman of Lakshmiprasad Pashchim Union Parishad under Kanaighat thana alleged that, about 25 per cent people of Lakshmiprasad Purba, Lakshmiprasad Pashchim and Kanaighat sadar unions have been suffering from the disease. He also alleged that there has been lack of treatment facilities on the part of the health officials and employees in the affected areas. Many of the affected villages are yet to see the activities of Health Department.

SYLHET. May 23 : With further deterioration, the number of deaths caused by the killer disease 'Cerebral Malaria has been on a rise in the districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj. According to the sources, it has already claimed about 500 lives in the region during the last sixty days. The total situation worsened due to the absence of effective measures to check spreading of the disease.

The total number of malaria patients in 200 villages of 26 unions under ten thanas of Sylhet and Sunamgani districts would be about fifty thousand. sources claimed. The situation took a serious turn due to the apathy on the part of the Health Deapartment in taking effective measures to check the disease. The number of deaths have been on increase almost everyday. People in the affected villages are now passing their days and nights amid a sense of insecurity.

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rasad Pashchim Union Parishad under Kanaighat thana alleged that, about 25 per cent people of Lakshmiprasad Purba, Lakshmiprasad Pashchim and Kanaighat sadar unions have been suffering from the disease. He also alleged that there has been lack of treatment facilities on the part of the health officials and employees in the affected

areas. Many of the affected villages are yet to see the activities of Health Department.

Sources further informed that, Indian authorities began spraying of malathion in the areas namely, Amlang, Langthal and Khashia Basti an their territory to check further outbreak of malaria there. Following this thousands of

#### Malaria turns serious in Jamalpur, Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 23 Malaria has broken out in the bordering regions of the greater Jamalpur district, official sources said.

The sources said that over 5000 people have been attacked with malaria. One people has already been reported dead. Several hundred people are also attacked with malaria in Sherpur, Ghenaigati, Walitabari, Sribordi, Bakshigani and Dewanganj thana. Preventyne measures have been taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

There is a rumour that the disease is preading from adjoining bordering regions of India. The people living in the border regions alleged that several people - have died of the fever in Maghalaya, Assam, Tripura states of India.

Civil Surgeon office has directed the thana health admin-

istrations to take preventive measures in bordering areas of the district. A total of 12 medical teams have been sent to different areas with adequate supply of medicine, claimed officials. The fever is now spreading to other parts each

day. These medical teams have

been working in the affected

areas to control the malaria

But local people alleged that the medical teams were not working properly in rural and remote areas adding that shortage of doctors, medical assistants, medicines, lack of proper supervision and negligence of duty have aggravated the situation.

The worst affected thana are Ghenaigati and Sribordi under the Sherpur district The affected people urged the concerned authority to take necessary steps to combat the

Mosquitoes carrying the germ of malaria crossed into the Bangladesh territory. It may be stated here that, most of the

affected areas in Bangladesh

territory are either located in

the border areas. People of the affected areas have demanded for immediate arrangment for spraying of 'Malathion' in all the affected villages in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts. Otherwise, it would not be possible to control the large-scale outbreak of the killer disease, expressed number of physicians working in the affected areas.

The disease has claimed about 300 people in the district of Sunamganj. The affected areas are, Tahirpur, Doarabazar, Biswambharpur, Dharampasha, Chhatak and sadar thanas. The Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj admitted that, the situation is worse this years. He also admitted that, the treatment is being seriously hampered due to the absence of necessary health workers in this areas.

Besides, most of the people of these areas which are located in the haor (Low-lying) areas are poor. Most of them have also lost their resistance against the malaria germ.

The Civil Surgeon of Sunamgani claimed that, as many as 66 medical teams have been working in the affected areas of the district. He further said that, immediate steps should be taken to supply pesticide-used Mosquito nets in the affected thanas. Besides. spraying of 'malathion' should also be started as early as possible, he added.

# Housewife

suicide From CHT Correspondent

MANIKCHHARI (Khagrachhari). May 23: An egotistic house-wife mother of four children committed suicide reportedly when her feelings were hurt as her request was unattended by her husband in celebration of Eid with them, police said quoting the neighbourers as saying.

commits

Samina Khatun, 25, the first wife of Ali Ahmed an inmate of the cluster village at Manikchhari thana headquarters committed suicide by drinking poison at the night of May 15 last as her request to her husband to celebrate Eid with them was not attended, sources said.

Disconsolation was started

in the house of Samina before one and a half year ago when her husband Ali Ahmed got married again as she could not accept it. In the evening of Eid tlay when Ali Ahmed expressed his intention to visit second father-in-laws house and meet his second wife but the first wife Samina appealed him to stay with his children in the Eid day, which was unattended.

Waiting for the return of her husband till the sunset of May 15, Samina drank poison to end the disturbed state of her mind. On getting information, immediately the neighbourers brought her to Manikchhari Thana Health Complex, where the attending physician declared her death. sources said.

#### Five alleged robbers held, arms, bullets recovered

SATKHIRA, May 23: Police arrested five alleged robbers and recovered some arms and ammunition from their possession during a raid at Kashimari in Shymnagar thana of the district on Friday, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Mofazzal, Barek, Kamal, Rafigul and Razzaque. Four rifles and some bullets were recovered from them.

Acting on a tip-off, Shymnagar police raided the residence of the notorious dacoit. Mofazzal at Kashimari and arrested the robbers.

#### Case against journalists in Pabna dismissed

PABNA, May 23: A defamation case against 15 journalists including editors of three national newspapers has been dismissed Monday by the sadar thana magistrate court, reports

The case was filed by a local businessman, Mirza Shamsul Islam on August 21, after a news item published in a number of national and local newspapers on August 3, which brought an allegation against him for floating a fake press

First Class Magistrate of Pabna sadar, Mohammad Altamas dismissed the case against Editor of Janakantha. Atikullah Khan Masud, Editor of Sangram, Abul Asad, former Editor of Janata, Sanaullah Nuri and other 12 local jour-

#### Irregular power supply paralyses life in Meherpur

MEHERPUR. May 23: The economic activities of the district have been seriously affected due to frequent power failure for the last one month. reports UNB.

According to official sources, the power supply from the national grid has decreased causing the frequent power disruptions.

Production in almost all the mills, factories and other establishments have remained suspended while sales in shops and markets have been hampered. Services in commercial organisations including banks and insurance companies have also been affected.

Local people alleged that after sunset, the entire town plunges into darkness causing miseries of the dwellers as they can not perform their normal work. Students including the ex-

aminees cannot study and emergency operations in hospitals and clinics are disrupted for the frequent power failures. Local businessmen said, they are forced to close their

shops shortly after the sunset. On the other hand, anti-social activities have increased in

the town and adjoining areas. Local people urged the au thorities concerned to look into the matter and take nec essary steps to ensure regular power supply immediately.

Relief in the areas reached

but the amount was very poor.

Local businessmen, however,

distributed essentials from

their own source. Many people

have taken shelter on roads

district, it is learnt, Char

Falkan, Char Kalkini, Char Algi,

Char Ramij, Char Gazi and and

Char Alexender were affected

by the tidal waves. The areas

also experienced some of the

worst hit places in the coastal

In Ramgati of Lakshmipur

and embankments.

#### Post tidal stage

### No electricity, water in Bandarban dist

From CHT Correspondent

BANDARBAN, May 23: Disruption of electricity, water and road communication in post tidal surge stage, made the life of Bandarban dwellers very miserable with an apprehension of taking more alarming turn of the already broken out diarrhoea which claimed at least 35 lives in the district earlier.

Bandarban is in dark with the disruption of electricity for the last five days as the electrical poles at many places were uprooted. Supply of electricity would not be possible within next 2/3 days till the completion of salvation work, the concerned authority said.

Two tins of water at present is sold at Taka 20-30 with the disruption of water supply for the last five days. Supply of water could be possible till the restoration of electric supply as there is no alternative of

electricity supply with the Department Public Health Engineering, said an engineer of DPHE said.

The road communication from and to district headquarters at all the routes were cut off due to landslide on the road at many points, causing an difficulties in movement of daily

necessities The prevailing acute scarcity of drinking water may cause a havoc in the form of diarrhoea, a health official apprehended. The municipal authority reported to have been distributing water purifying tablets.

The family of four persons who were buried alive in a landslide on May 17 at college road area in Bandarban would be provided Taka five thousand per family from the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, it was learnt.

Following 4 successive yrs of loss

### Kushtia Sugar Mills achieves output target

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 23: Kushtia Sugar Mills has achieved its production target this year after successive years of loss from 1990-91. No loss or gain is expected this year. The mills started its pro-

duction from October 28, 1994 and continued its crushing upto May 6, 1995. It produced 19,632 metric tons of sugar by crushing 249869m tons of sugarcane, its recovery rate was a poor 7.92 per cent. Target of production for this year was fixed at 18500m tons by crushing 22,4000 m tons of sugarcane within 160 days while recovery, was target at 8.40 per cent.

17,000 acres of land was brought under sugarcane cultivation and Tk 2.50, crore were distributed among the farmers as loans. The mills authority brought 3,31,000 maunds of sugarcane from Chuadanga within Darshana Sugar Mills

The mills has a total stock of 11034 metric tons of sugar lying unsold and Tk 4.50 crore are to be paid to the sugarcane growers.

While inaugurating, the crushing season. Minister of State for Industries, Md. Lutfor Rahman Khan warned all concerned, against the losses the Kushtia Sugar Mills has been incurring.

Kushtia Sugar Mills had incurred loss of nearly Taka 15 crore from 1990-91. Similarly sugar corporation

has incurred a total loss of Taka 350 crore since independence while the last year's loss was Tk 22 crore.

The corporation has fixed its target production this year at 2 lakh 18 thousand tons. Last year its target was 2 lakh 2 thousand tons but production was 2 lakh 22 thousand tons. Production cost per kg. was Taka 37 but the market price was Tk 27 per kg.

## Tidal waters receding leaving a trail of devastation

Diarrhoea broke out in tidal wave affected areas of Hatia. Companygani. Shudharam. greater Noakhali district causing severe crisis of drinking water as most of the tubewells meantime saline water from sea entered filling various water fundies.

Chandia and Char Darbesh in Sonagazi thana of Feni district. An Union Parishad (UP) member Abu Sufian of Char Chandia Sonagazi and Ramgati thanas of informed The Daily Star that 80 per cent areas of two UP were affected by the tidal saline water and an estimated went out of order. In the 600 houses were fully damaged while another 2000 huts were partially damaged. Aus paddy groundmit, chilli and other



Saleh Ahmad of Sonagazi thana of Feni district stands with his family among the ruins what used to be his home.

with heavy salinity affected huge areas. Ponds are full with saline water - fish of various quality in ponds are dyeing. While visiting some of the affected areas this correspondent last Friday witnessed there were hundreds of people who were still waiting to receive relief goods in Char-

On last Saturday tidal water crops on about 8,000 acres of land were totally damaged.

- Star photo

Houses, house hold goods. poultry, livestocks were also lost in the disaster. The UP member also said diarrhoea broke out affecting about 500 people. Five reportedly died who could not be identified.

Many areas are still under

From MS Faruque

In Companygani of Noakhali district. Char Elahi, Char Panbati, Char Hazari, Mushpur and Char Fakira were affected. This correspondent met the TNO of Companygani. Munshi Aluddin Al-Azad who informed that few relief materials were distributed in Char Hazari, He also informed that many huts.

Huts, crops and many roads were badly damaged. While the Chairman accompanied this correspondent to see the aflected areas, some women gheraoed the chairman asking him to provide shelter and

The Chairman also informed that some fishermen in



SHUDHARAM (Noakhali): villagers digging grave in village Nabogram. Seven persons were killed in the recent tidal surge and diarrhoeal attack - Star photo

shrimp beds, ponds, aus paddy, groundnut, chilli, crop fields roads were damaged by the tidal water. He confirmed Char Elahi and Char Lengta model village were badly damaged. Many areas are still un-

der water it was witnessed. The UP Chairman of Char Elahi. Tajul Islam said that three persons were missing.



A man carrying drinking water to his home. In the after-math of the recent tidal surge people have to collect drinking water from distant places

the area saved lives of some 200 people in Char Lengta Model village. He confirmed death of one person who was attached by diarrhoea and over 200 are affected. The relief goods, provided by the government, were very poor in quantity.

In Shudharam of Noakhalt, Char Bata, Char Wapda, Char Clark, Sundulpur. Ghosbag and Chaprashir hat were badly affected. Aus paddy, groundnut, chilli and other crops were damaged in vast areas.



A dog eating flesh of a dead cow in Sonagazi thana. - Star photo



A minor boy uses a raft to fetch drinking water. — Star photo

Diarrhoea claimed 30 people of them 11 were children. In Nabgram under Shendalpur over 1000 people most of whom are children were victims. Crisis of drinking water, scarcity of medicine are said to be the main causes of break out of diarrhoea - said a social worker. Delower Hossain Apu. In Hatya, it is learnt crops

on nearly 15,000 acres of land. 50 km long flood control embankment, livestock, thousand of homesteads have been damaged. Diarrhoea also broke out,

An Agronomist told The Daily Star, that the land which were under saline water lost fertility and he predicts that its effect may prolong for many, many years.

damage in the areas to property and lives were available. Flood affected people of all areas, urged to government. NGOs to help them supply drinking water.

Diarrhoea broke out in epi demic form in the affected ar

### Dacoits loot 101 tolas of gold from jewellery shops

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET. May 23: Gold. money in cash and valuables worth about a total of Taka ten lakh were looted by an armed gang of dacoits from two jewelleries of a market in Sylhet town in the night following Tuesday last.

According to the reports, the dacoits entered into the market by breaking open the gill of the collapsible gate of the Nehar Market. There was incessant rains in the night of incident. The miscreants broke the 7 locks of the Banik Jewellers and took away 101 tolas of gold, Taka 94 thousand in cash and prize Bond worth Taka 18 thousand from there. They also took away 38 tolas of gold and Taka 35 thousand in cash from Rony Jewellers located in the same market.

Police recovered a crowbar and some ready food from two rooms of a nearby residential hotel named "Hotel Manta" the following morning. The rooms

were previously booked by some people who identified themselves as from Dhaka while registering their names. Police also found the two night guards in unconscious state. Police apprehend that, the miscreants might have fed the night guards with the ready food mixed with some

It may be stated here that, another daring dacoity was committed in another jewellery shop in the nearby Haque Market one and a half months back.

A case had been registered with the Kotwali police. No arrest has yet been reported.

Another dacoity bid was foiled at Jherjheripara in the town on the same night. The inmates of the house of Alhai Manigul Islam Chowdhury Vice-president, District unit of Awami League woke up when the dacoits were cutting the grills in the midnight.

### CPEP faces set-back in CHT region

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI. May 23: The compulsory primary education in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region have been facing a setback as the free of cost books scheduled to be supplied by the government, are yet to reach the government primary schools, even after more than five months have passed, it is alleged.

Majority of the students studying in the government free primary schools of all the 25 thanas of the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban did not get the books they are supposed to receive, sufferers said.

On contact the education department officials informed that a complicacy has arised as the books so far supplied by the authority did not fulfil our requisition.

More than 20 thousand students of about 1000 primary schools did not get their arithmetics and English books and almost same number of students of class three did not get Bengali, English, and Science books.

Holding of half yearly examination and implementation of compulsory primary education programme in CHT has become uncertain, the sources alleged.

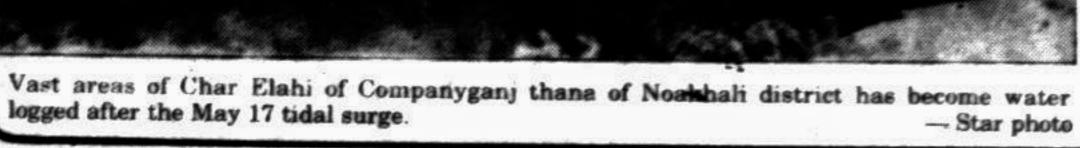
#### Son taken hostage demanding double barrel gun

JHENIDAH, May 23: A double barrel gun along with one round of bullet was looted by the miscreants from village Goalhuda of Mohespur thana on Friday, reports UNB.

According to the police and

witnesses, a gang of 20 to 25 armed miscreants raided the house of one Abdul Quader of the village at dead of night and took one of his sons as hostage at gunpoint demanding his licensed gun. The house owner was

compelled to hand over the gun to the miscreants. Villagers suspected that the gang were the activists of an outlawed party.



- Star photo

claiming 20.

No estimate of the extent of