

NEWS SNAPS

Electrician killed

UNB, Manikganj
An electrician of local Palli Bidyut Samity was killed when he slipped down from an electric pole at Rupsha bazaar in Shibalaya upazila on Saturday.
Witnesses said electrician Hatem Ali, 32, hailed from Pirojpur who sustained serious injuries while working. He died on way to hospital. The body was sent to his village home.

Body recovered

BSS, Natore
Police recovered a body from village Sidhuly in Gurudaspur Upazila on Wednesday.
The body was identified as Nikkanto, 22, son of Nikhil Chandro of village Sidhuly. Police recovered the body of Nikkanto, a gold smith, from Sidhuly Primary School premises and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. He went out from his house with his friend Hamza on Tuesday night. A case was filed with Gurudaspur thana.

Current nets recovered

UNB, Chandpur
Fisheries officials and coast guards in separate raids recovered 410 illegal current nets worth Tk 50 lakh from the river Meghna on Thursday.
The joint raids were conducted at Bahria, Harina, Ananda Bazaar, Dasadi, Sajamani, Ishanbala, Alur Bazaar and Laka riverbank areas.

Foundation

stone laid

UNB, Kishoreganj
A scheme has been taken up to construct the academic building of Teachers' Training College here.
Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk laid the foundation stone of the building as chief guest on Sunday. Former Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh Dr Aminul Haque attended there as special guest. Earlier, the minister handed over an ambulance, given by the prime minister, to Karimganj Upazila Health Complex.

Cane field gutted

BSS, Narayanganj
A cane field was gutted in a fire at Munshibari at Baburail here recently.
Fire service sources suspect the fire originated from a burning cigarette butt thrown by somebody in the cane bush.

New advance course for mid-level Navy officers

Bangladesh Navy has introduced Supply and Secretariat Advance Course for mid-level officers, says an ISPR press release.
Earlier, the officers were sent abroad for the course spending huge foreign currency.
Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba inaugurated the course at BNS Titumir in Khulna on Saturday morning.
The Navy Chief called upon the student officers to make the best use of their valuable training which they are going to acquire from the course to build themselves as officers of high professional competence.
He went round different class rooms to see for himself training classes, training aids and other professional activities.
On his arrival at BNS Titumir, the Navy Chief was received by the Commodore Commanding Khulna Commodore ME Islam
Among others, senior Naval officers and a large number of student officers were present.

Outlawed party cadres active in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The cadres of outlawed parties have become active again in Bagmara upazila resulting in deterioration of law and order in the area.
Very frequently they threat people, raid their houses, harass and beat innocent people.
They even keep people hostages for money.
Meanwhile, members of many families in Shuvadanga union have fled away from their houses as they did not cast vote to chairman candidate Mohosin Pramanik.
Because of this fault at least 12 families are being deprived of drinking water of tubewells and not allowed to buy essentials from nearby stores.
The families belong to Abdul Malek, Insar Ali, Dr Jonab Ali, Barikullah, Abdul Malek, Abdul Khalek, Nurul Islam, Fatima Begum of village Paikpara including the family of Nasir of village Teghor.

Doarika-Shikarpur bridge opens on Tuesday



PHOTO: STAR

The newly-constructed Doarika bridge in Barisal will be opened on Tuesday. The bridge will shorten distance of the southern divisional town with rest of the country to a great extent gearing up development activities.

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely to inaugurate the newly-constructed Doarika-Shikarpur bridge in Barisal at 11 in the morning on Tuesday (April 8).
The premier is also likely to address a public meeting in the afternoon at a place adjacent to the cadet college.
The bridge has been constructed 1.5 kilometre (KM) downstream of Doarika ferryghat and 2.5 KM downstream of Shikarpur ferryghat. It will help a lot in rapid development of Barisal division.
However, emergency steps should be taken to protect the new bridge from erosion of the Shungandha River, especially in the next full monsoon period.
The bridge will connect Barisal with other parts of the country. It is situated 18 to 21 kilometres off Barisal-Dhaka highway. The previous BNP Government took up the plan to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of people in this region. The Kuwaiti government has donated fund for construction of the bridge at a cost of Tk 1.75 crore.

Arsenic in water of 60 pc tubewells in Meherpur

BSS, Meherpur

Water of 60 per cent (pc) tubewells in three upazilas and two municipalities of Meherpur is arsenic contaminated, official sources said.
The Department of Public Health Engineering Department (DPHE) conducted a survey in water of 3,975 out of 7,995 tubewells and found waters arsenic contaminated.
DPHE has marked the arsenic affected tubewells and advised people of the area not to drink water of the red marked tubewells. But people are using water of these tubewells as there is no other alternative source of drinking water in the affected villages.
According to World Health Organisation (WHO) 0.05 mg arsenic per litre of water is the tolerable unit for Bangladesh. But sample collected from different parts of Meherpur indicated that the high percentage of arsenic contents like that of 0.51 mg to 0.56 mg in tubewells' water is extremely dangerous for public health.
Non-availability of medicine and kit

Chandpur Bar election held

UNB, Chandpur

Advocate Abdul Mannan Patwary and Advocate Abdul Latif Sheikh have been elected president and general secretary of the district bar association.
Advocate Ruhul Amin Sarkar has been elected senior vice president, while advocate Amin Ahmed has been elected junior vice president.



Artistes of Ekota Natya Gosthi perform at a drama titled "Modinar Sangsar" at Purura High School in Tarail upazila, Kishoreganj on the International Women's Day. Kishoreganj District Information Office organised the programme under United Nations Children Fund (Unicef)-aided motivational project 'Advocacy and Communication for Women and Children.'

Mahastami Snan on April 9-10

BSS, Narayanganj

The two-day 'Mahastami Snan' (holy dip) will be held in the Brahmaputra River at Langalbandh here on April 9 and 10.
A 41-member convening committee has been formed with Dilip Ghoshal as its convenor at a meeting at 'Narasingha Akhra' here on Friday with Narayan Chandra Banik in the chair.
Among others, central Puja Udjapan Parishad leaders Anil Chandra Nath, Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmik, Swapan K Saha, Kajal Debnath, Advocate Satynedra Nath Bhakta, local leaders Gouranga Chandra Das, Bachchu Ghoshal, Hare Krishna Das and Bachchu Ghosh attended there.
An elaborate programme has been chalked out to observe the holy dip.
Thousands of Hindus, including devotees from India and Nepal, join the holy dip every year to purify themselves and seek divine blessings.
The programmes include discussion, devotional songs, puja and distribution of 'prasad'.
The meeting urged the government to take necessary steps so that the devotees can perform their religious function smoothly.

Workshop on Internet, its usage in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Computer Association (RCA) arranged a daylong workshop on 'Internet and its Usage' at local Engineers' Institute auditorium on April 3.
At least 50 teachers of Rajshahi University (RU), government officers, business executives, engineers and journalists took part.
Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) Chairman Ruhul Kabir attended the workshop as the chief guest and distributed certificates among participants in the evening.
Professor Dr Ramesh Chandra Devnath, former Chairman of RU Computer Science Department inaugurated the workshop in the morning, while general secretary of the association Nurul Islam spoke and its president presided over.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Two persons pile up watermelons near a field at Kuakata in Barisal where growers achieved a bumper production of the summer fruit this year. Each watermelon is on sale at Tk 50-60 at field here.

3,32,000 tons of summer vegetables output target fixed in Rajshahi division

BSS, Joypurhat

An extensive plan has been taken up by the government to cultivate summer vegetables in the northern districts during 2003-2004.
Under the programme, 5,48,000 tons of different varieties of summer vegetables will be cultivated from 65,500 hectares of land in 16 districts of Rajshahi division during the season.
According to officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and farmers, production of winter vegetables suffered a setback in Rajshahi division last season due to extremely cold weather.
As prices of vegetables remained very high due to its lower production, the government took up measures to make the vegetable farming programme a success.
DAE, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO), leading non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have taken measures to provide good quality vegetable seeds, necessary inputs and technical assistance to farmers, officials concerned told BSS.
According to DAE, a total of 3,32,000 tons of summer vegetables will be produced from 41,500 hectares of land in eight districts under Rajshahi Agriculture Zone and 2,16,000 tons of vegetables will be produced from 41,500 hectares in eight districts under Rangpur Agriculture Zone. The production rate of summer vegetable has been fixed at eight tons this year.
The district-wise break-up of target of vegetables production is as follows: 48,000 tons of different varieties of vegetables from 6,000 hectares each in

Rajshahi and Dinaipur, 40,000 tons from 5,000 hectares each in Naogaon and Sirajganj, 32,000 tons from 4,000 hectares each in Natore, Chapainawabganj, Bogra and Rangpur, 24,000 tons from 3,000 hectares each in Joypurhat, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Thakurgaon, 84,000 tons from 10,500 hectares in Pabna, and 16,000 tons from 2,000 hectares in Panchagarh.
Farmers are now collecting quality seeds of summer vegetables. Some of them have already sowed seeds in their lands. Vegetable plants are growing well where seeds were sowed earlier.
Farmers have urged the government to ensure distribution of quality seeds and to control marketing of low quality seeds by vested quarters.