

## Upazila roundup

## NARSINGDI

## Taka 65,000 snatched from businessman

## From Our Correspondent

April 23: A terror group snatched Taka 65 thousand from a businessman Nazrul Islam and injured him in Narsingdi town recently.

He was admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital. A case was registered with police.

One Kanchan Mia (70) was killed in Chor Digoldi village under Narsingdi Sadar upazila recently.

According to the sources, two armed group of Rahim member and Rashid Mia had been quarrelling for char land for a long time.

On the day of the occurrence, when two groups were face to face, suddenly the victim was hit by a teta and he died.

## MAULVI BAZAR

## Pahela Baishakh celebrated

## From Our Correspondent

April 23: Pahela Baishakh, the Bengali new year's day was celebrated in Maulvi Bazar with traditional fervour and enthusiasm.

Baishakhi Mela organised by the Srijoni, a socio-cultural organisation was the main attraction of the programme held at Hafiza Khatun Municipal Girls High School which drew a large gathering.

Three day-long 'Nama Kirtan' programme was also held by Hindu community of the town at 'Sri Sri Madan Mohan Jew Akhra' premises on the occasion of Bengali new year's day.

## Eid-ul-Fitr

Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated throughout Maulvi Bazar district with due religious fervour and solemnity.

Special prayers were offered in Eid congregations seeking divine blessing for peace, progress and solidarity of the Muslim Ummah.

The main Eid congregation was held at Maulvi Bazar town Eidgah near the shrine of Hazrat Sayed Shah Mustafa (R.A).

## SYLHET

## 3 killed in train accident

## From Our Correspondent

April 23: Three persons were killed when a Surma mail ploughed on to a Pepsicola truck at Laskarpur rail crossing on April 15. The driver of the truck, Abdur Rahid (30) died on the spot and two others died later one on way to Habiganj hospital. Another one was admitted to hospital. After the post mortem, the victims were buried in Rajnagar graveyard of Habiganj. A case has been registered with Srirangal railway police.

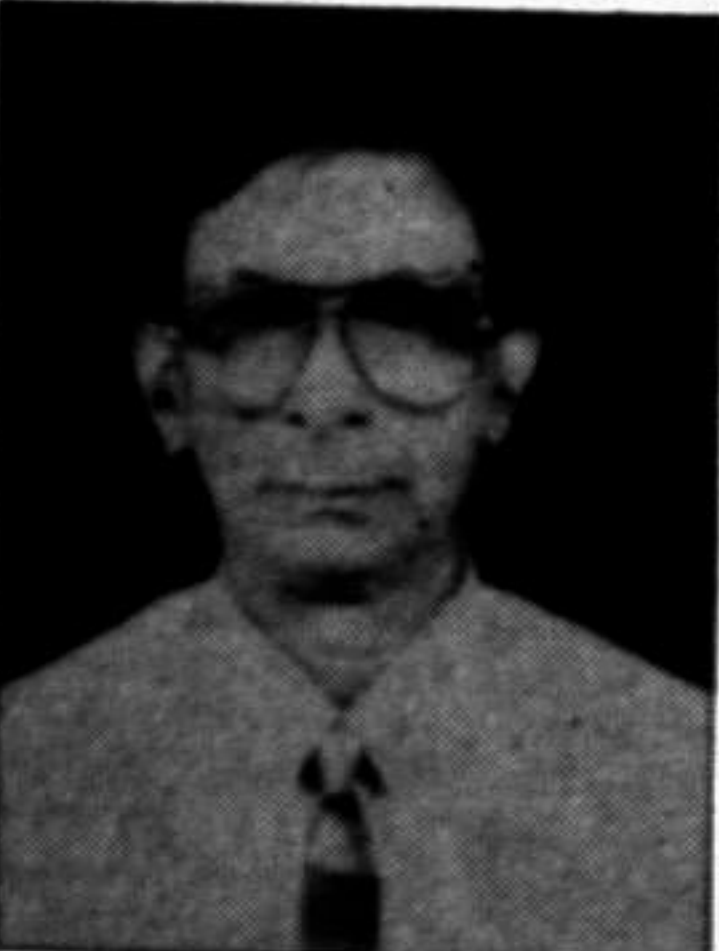
## MUNSHIGANJ

## Best science teacher

## From Our Correspondent

April 23: Bangladesh Science Education Society has nominated Mr. Afzal Hossain Bhuiyan, science teacher, Munshiganj, A.V.J.M Government Girls' High School as the best science for this year.

The Society has awarded



Mr. Afzal Hossain with a certificate as well as an honourarium of Taka 5000.

Mr. Afzal Hossain carries an excellent academic career. He got UNESCO scholarship in 1982 to study biology in Paredonia University of Sri Lanka.

He is connected with various socio-cultural activities of Munshiganj. He is the founder Secretary of Munshiganj Women's College and the Secretary of Harendra Public Library, Munshiganj.

## MEHERPUR

## Potato sells below production cost

## From A Correspondent

April 23: Potato growers of the district have been deprived of fair price of their produce.

The farmers have achieved a bumper production of potato this season. It is learnt from a source that 10,000 hectares of land have been brought under potato cultivation in the district. The target of production has exceeded.

Farmers are coming to hats, bazars and markets of the district with sacks full of potatoes. Due to abundant supply the prices have come down. Potatoes are being sold in the market below production cost at Tk. 4. The prices of onion, garlic and ginger are still high and sell at Taka 20, 40 and 30 respectively.

There is no cold storage at Meherpur or at Chuadanga, the neighbouring district. The hard laboured vegetables can fetch attractive price if storage facilities are made available.

Agro-economy of the district falls down to a minimum for want of cold storage facility.

## Boro harvesting begins

## From Our Correspondent

April 23: The harvesting of boro paddy is going on in full swing throughout the district.

About 1,32,923 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation in 13 upazilas of the district during the current boro season. Over 3,30,501.81 metric tons of paddy are expected to be produced in the district this year but natural disasters like heavy rain with hail-storms since March and pest menace in 13 upazilas of the district, have damaged about 40 per cent standing crops.

Consequently the production target of boro paddy may not be achieved this year.

## 24 examinees expelled

Twenty-four examinees were expelled from four centres on Sunday, the first day of the Dakhil Examination of Madrasa Board.

Of the expelled, two were from Kishoreganj centre, four from Karimganj, five from Katiadi and 13 from Pakundia.

A total of 842 candidates appeared in the examination from this district.

## MADARIPUR

## House rent up

## From Our Correspondent

April 23: House rent has increased manifold in the town over the last six months creating problems to low income groups.

According to tenants, shortage of houses gave house owners the scope of increasing rent.

Construction of houses declined due to rise in the prices of construction materials, some house owner said.

The demand for houses increased after a large number of employees and workers poured into the town to attend office both in private and public sectors.

Many government and private organisations have opened up their office in the town over the recent years.

## JHENAI DAH

## 590 tubewells lying inoperative

April 23: About 590 shallow tubewells have been lying inoperative in six upazilas of the district causing acute scarcity of pure water and hampering irrigation facilities, reports UNB.

According to Public Health Engineering Department (PHE), of the total tubewells, 97 are in Sadar, 82 including tow Tara deep set in Shalakkupa, 85 including 12 Tara deep set in Hartnakuanda, 174 including 45 Tara deep set in Kaliganj, 30 in Kotechandpur and 122 in Moheshpur upazilas.

Mechanical troubles and missing of spare parts are learnt to be the main causes of the tubewells lying inoperative.

According to sources, a total of 12,342 tubewells including 482 Tara deep set were installed in the district. Similar number of tubewells are also installed in private sector most of which have already gone out of order.



Flower business has gained popularity in some district towns too. Photo shows women are busy making garlands under a tree at Rajshahi.

## Prospect for peanut farming bright in Bhola

## From Our Correspondent

BHOLA, Apr 23: The prospect for peanut cultivation in seven upazilas of Bhola district is bright.

An encouraging result has been achieved from the experimental cultivation of peanut on the charland of Meghna and Tatulia rivers and more farmers have become interested in cultivating peanut. A vast tract of fallow land have been brought under peanut cultivation.

Experts are of the opinion that charlands are suitable for the cultivation of peanut with low cost. During dry seasons, these charlands emerge on the bed of the rivers Meghna and Tatulia where peanut could be cultivated easily. Peanut is found most profitable in these areas. The main peanut cultivable areas are: Sharfession, Monpura, Daulatkhan and Borhan Uddin upazila, it is learnt.

Informed sources said peanut has now become a cash crop in this flood affected areas where production of paddy and other crops are completely uncertain. Many of the farmers are now engaged in

cultivation of peanut.

But a little effort has been made by the Agricultural Extension Department to produce improved quality of peanut. There is a wide market of the crop in and outside the country. Besides, a better quality of edible oil could be produced from peanut, experts opined.

The farmers have urged the concerned authorities to extend help to provide them with improved quality of seeds and financial assistance for the cultivation of peanut.

At least 70 per cent engines of the power pumps supplied by the Agricultural Extension Department are being used for other commercial purposes indiscriminately in different areas of Bhola district. It has seriously hit the irrigation programme in this district, causing an adverse effect in increasing food production.

It is alleged that these power pumps were supplied to the interested farmers by BADC at subsidised rates only to utilise for the irrigation purpose during the last few years.

But these are being used in country boats, husking mills etc. Even the engines are used in cinema halls, it is reported.

Supervision in this regard is also totally absent which has aggravated the situation. It is alleged. District Agricultural Extension Department told this correspondent that every year Boro cultivation was hampered greatly in this district only due to the absence of proper use of the power pumps for irrigation.

## Tea garden employees deprived of medicare

## From A Correspondent

SRIMANGAL, Apr 23: The five hundred tea garden employees including the staff of 30 tea gardens under seven tea estates division, eight tea factories, superintendent office, Denston Central Stores, Denston Central Workshop owned and managed by James Finlay P. L. C. and 84 thousand tea labourers of the said tea organisations are deprived of the medical facilities due to the non implementation of Government approved medical facilities.

The leaders of the Finlay Group of Tea Estates employ-

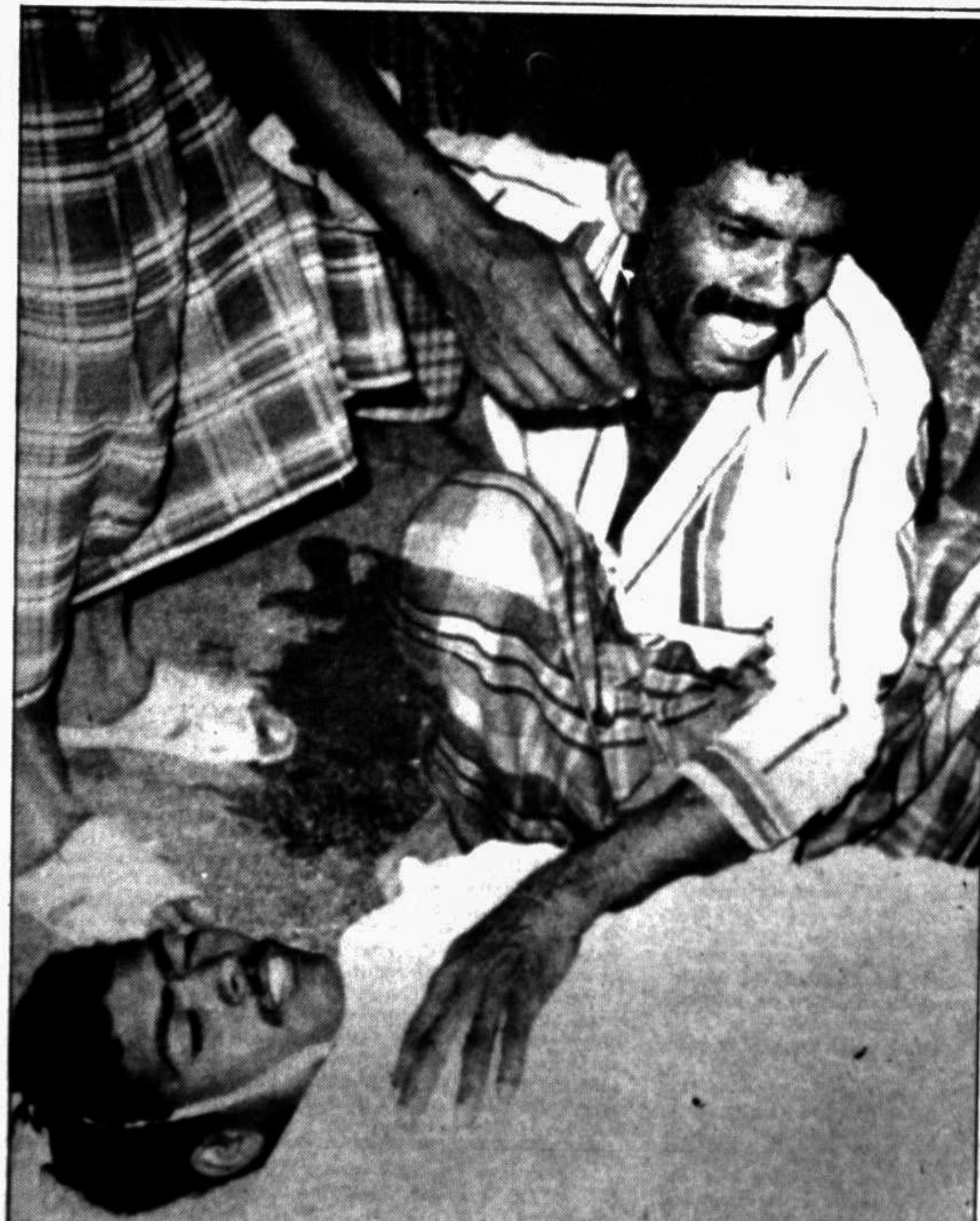
ees alleged that according to Tea Plantation Labour Ordinance '77 each tea garden is to appoint and engage one MBBS doctor and provide full medical facilities. According to Shops, Factories and Establishment Act in the tea garden provides one MBBS doctor with a separate medical set up for each unit of 1750 members of labourers. The labour laws also confirm the appointment of a labour welfare officer each tea garden.

Mr. Imdad, a leader alleged that James Finlay for 500 tea employees and 84 thousand tea labourers in 31 tea garden

and 8 tea factories engaged only seven MBBS doctors with 27 dispensaries where medicine supply is very meagre. No welfare officer has yet been appointed in tea sector.

He also added that the employees of tea gardens are passing inhuman and miserable days.

When contacted the lone Inspector (General) for Factories and Establishment, Ramkrishna Mission Road, Srirangal admitted the fact and said the same condition is prevailing in all the tea companies.



Wailing beside the body of a relation killed in Monday's bus accident at dhamrai in Manikganj district. Fifty-one persons were killed and about 100 injured in the accident.

## Deterioration of law, order protested

## From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 23: People from all walks of life arranged a protest meeting against the deteriorating law and order situation in Kishoreganj district.

Katiadi Upazila Chairman Habibur Rahman Daial presided over the meeting. BNP Parliament Member Major (Retd) Aktaruzzaman Ranjan was the chief guest while Kazi Nasirul Islam and Police Super Md. Lutfar Rahman attended the meeting as special guests.

Leader and workers of different political parties including BNP and Awami League were also present at the meeting. Speakers including police officials at the meeting promised to keep Kishoreganj safe from killing, snatching, hijacking and other crimes.

## Blackmarketeer held

Meanwhile, Kishoreganj police arrested one person for his alleged involvement in blackmarketing railway tickets on Saturday. Police also recovered 38 tickets of Egarshindur Express train from his possession.

Acting of a secret information, the police raided the premises in front of the ticket

counter at the Kishoreganj Railway Station and arrested Awal. The arrested person was selling tickets at a higher rate. A case was registered with Kishoreganj police in this connection (EOM).

## 2 killed

Two persons were killed in the district during the last two days. One Momtazuddin (45) of village Bhatgaon in Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila was stabbed to death by miscreants last Friday night.

The miscreants entered the house by cutting the fence and stabbed Momtazuddin while he was deep asleep. He died instantaneously. Police took three persons into custody on suspicion of having their complicity in the murder.

The body of one Marfat Ali (30) of village Char Pitaganj in Hossainpur upazila was recovered by the police from a pond last Friday. The victim went out of the house on Thursday night and did not return home. The causes behind both the murders could not be ascertained as yet. Two separate cases were registered with the respective police stations in this connection.

## Output in Kushtia Sugar Mills at all time high

FENI, Apr 23: Local products have been knocked out by smuggled Indian goods in the markets here threatening expansion of domestic enterprise, reports UNB.

According to sources, smuggled Indian goods like sugar, spices, bicycle spares, sarees, electric goods, cosmetics, lentil and medicines are being sold in local markets with impunity.

Bangladesh Rifles recently intensified their anti-smuggling hunt and recovered 10,000 kgs of Indian sugar following raids in Parshuram, Changazi, Pulgazi and Medar bazar areas of the district. They also arrested 30 traders in this connection from here.

These smuggled goods are exchanged for VCPs, VCRs, dry fish, baby food and polyester cloth from Bangladesh.

Concerned circles believe survival of local industries will be at stake if necessary steps are not taken.

## Uplift schemes

At least 70 uplift schemes are underway in four upazilas of the district under food for works programme.

About 3,000 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned to implement the schemes in five Parshuram, Doganbhuiyan, Sonagazi and Chagalniya upazilas during this financial year.

The projects include construction of roads, bridges and culverts.

About 65 per cent work on the projects have already been completed while the rest is expected to be finished soon.

## Notes from Chuadanga

## From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 23: Eid-ul-Fitr was observed throughout Chuadanga district with due religious fervour.

In Chuadanga the main Eid congregation was held at local central Eidgah Maidan. Maulana Abu Shama conducted the main Eid Prayer.

Besides, Eid congregations were also held at local Carabazar Mosque, Court Mosque, Palash Para Mosque, Buzrukargari Madrasa Mosque, Alia Madrasa, V.J. High School Mosque, Kederganj Mosque. Special prayers were offered in these Eid congregations for peace and national progress.

## One stabbed to death

One Bashar aged about 18 years of village Juranpur under Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district was stabbed to death by his elder brother Alehim at their village home recently.

It is learnt that Bashar was killed by his elder brother Alehim following a family dispute relating to their landed property.

A case has been started with the Damurhuda police station in this connection. The killer Alehim is absconding now.

Investigation is going on.

## Pahela Baishakh

Pahela Baishakh, the first day of new Bengali year 1398 was celebrated here in a befitting manner.

In connection with the observance of the day separate programmes were chalked out by two organisations like Chuadanga Shahitto Parishad and Mukul Fouz, Court Para.

The programmes of both the organisations included discussion meeting, recitation, and cultural function. The discussion meeting of the local Shahitto Parishad was held at the Parishad's office with its President Poet Rezaul Hoque in the chair while the Mukul Fouz programme was presided over by M. Mahabub Uddin. Mr. Saber Ali, a retired Superintendent of Police was present on the occasion as the chief guest.

## Old coins recovered

The Damurhuda police under Chuadanga district has seized 107 pieces of old silver coins of the era of probably 6th Edward who was popularly known as 'Nara Raja'.

## 10 JCD workers hurt in clash

## From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 23: At least 10 students were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between three rival groups of students at Pakundia college on Monday, police sources said.

Chattrra League(S-A), JCD and Chattrra Kallayan Parishad (Pro-JP) brought out separate procession in the college compound raising incendiary slogans.

BCL (S-A) condemned JCD for killing of Sharif at Dhaka Polytechnic Institute which JCD denied. The Kallayan Parishad also condemned JCD and BNP government for shifting and harassing deposed president H.M. Ershad.

At a stage the processionists turned violent and BCL and Parishad jointly attacked JCD Procession that left 10 students injured from both sides.

Two JCD workers Habibur Rahman and Washtuzzaman were admitted to hospital. Additional police forces have been deployed in the college compound.

## Property gutted

## From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Apr 23: Property worth about Taka one lakh was gutted by fire at Putbari Kamalapur village under Sadar upazila on Saturday.

Houses of Sheikh Jalal and Md. Ayub Ali were burnt to ashes. Md. Sadek, a neighbour of Jalal and Ayub is reported to have set the houses on fire. Sadek set the house on fire after being furious with his wife who allegedly had an illicit affair with another youth.

## Drought hits Sherpur

SHERPUR, Apr 23: Irrigation production in the district this year is likely to be affected by persisting dry spell, reports UNB.

According to sources, prolonged drought dried up almost all sources of water like beel, canal, pond and river.

Most of the shallow tubewells in the areas have become dry and unserviceable following abnormal fall in the underground water table.

Standing Irrigation paddy, soon to be harvested, have been threatened seriously by the prevailing drought.

About 1,50,000 acres of land were brought under Irrigation cultivation in the district during the current season, officials said.