

District roundup

MADARIPUR

Chairman, ward commissioners take oath

Apr 3: The newly-elected chairman and commissioners of Madaripur Paurashava were administered oath of office by the Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sattar Miah at a function held here recently, reports BSS.

Khalilur Rahman Khan was elected chairman of Madaripur Paurashava.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Abu Haidar Sattar conducted the function. Police Super Madaripur Nurul Ala Chowdhury, President and General Secretary respectively of Madaripur district BNP Al-haj Ferdous Jamadar and Kazi Humayun Kabir attended the function.

RAJSHAHI

Police action on Nirmul body leaders slated

Apr 3: Local unit of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee held a rally and brought out a procession in the town on Wednesday protesting the police atrocities on its central leaders in the capital on March 26, reports UNB.

The committee leaders at a rally in the town strongly condemned the police action and demanded punishment to those responsible for the attack.

The rally was presided over by the eminent novelist and educationist Prof Hasan Azizul Haque.

A huge contingent of police was posted at different points of the city but no untoward incident was reported.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi University Teachers' Association President Prof Oaisuddin and Secretary Prof Aminul Islam in a joint statement on the same day also condemned the police excesses on the Nirmul Committee leaders including Jahannara Imam.

They said such police action on the Nirmul Committee leaders would strengthen the hands of anti-liberation forces in the country and called upon the government to respect the opinion of others to give democracy an institutional shape.

SATKHIRA

Indian cows, bicycle spares worth Tk 2.75 lakh seized

Apr 3: Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian cows and huge quantity of bicycle spares worth about Taka 2.75 lakh from two different thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, BDR jawans seized the cattlehead from Kayba border in Kalarao thana on Wednesday while the cows were being smuggled into the country.

In another driver BDR personnel raided Bhadrata Bazar in Assasuni thana on Tuesday and recovered the bicycle spares.

Two cases were filed with the local police.

FENI

Radio Bangladesh sub-centre to be set up

Apr 3: A sub-centre of Radio Bangladesh with the capacity of 2 kw will be set up near the Sadar town, official sources said, reports UNB.

The centre like the sub-centres of Comilla, Rangamati and Thakurgaon will relay the programmes of Radio Bangladesh with the completion of the scheme.

Earlier, Director General of Radio Bangladesh M N Mostafa visited Feni in this connection.

CHANDPUR

Angry youths attack passenger, 5 hurt

Apr 3: At least five people were injured and a bus was partially damaged near the Eye Hospital here Saturday when a group of angry youths attacked the passengers, reports UNB.

Police sources said the clash ensued when a youth pulled the scarf of a girl passenger of the Dhaka bound bus, who is a student of Islamic University when the bus was parked at the stoppage on Chandpur-Comilla road.

Some passengers got furious at this and raised strong protest. At this the insulted youth went away and came back with a gang of unruly youths equipped with lethal weapons. They barricaded the bus at around 11 am and beat the passengers indiscriminately.

As a result five people were injured and the bus was partially damaged.

Among the attackers three were caught by the passengers. They were identified as Babul (22), Labiu (20) and Faruque Alias Solaiman (16) of Bishmudi village in Sadar thana and were handed over to the police.

The injured people received treatment from the district general hospital. A case has been filed with the local police.

KUSHIA

Rice mill owner succumbs to injuries

Apr 3: A rice mill owner, who received bullet injuries during a raid at his mill in village Arpara of Kumarkhali thana Tuesday, succumbed to injuries at the Kushiya General Hospital Wednesday night, reports UNB.

The victim identified as Atiar Rahman was shot by a group of armed miscreants, police said.

The miscreants raided the mill and opened fire when resisted. Atiar was rushed to hospital in critical condition and later succumbed to injuries.

A case has been filed with the local thana.

BARISAL

DIG distributes clothes among distressed

Apr 3: The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Barisal Range, Ziauddin Ahmed distributed clothes among the 500 poor men, women and children of Barisal district on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr at the police line maidan, reports BSS.

According to a police source, the clothes included saree, lungee, trousers and children's dresses.

Anishur Rahman Khan, Superintendent of Police, Barisal district, and other police personnel were present on the occasion.

JAMALPUR

Three student leaders held for murder

Apr 3: Melandha police arrested three student leaders for alleged involvement in a murder case on March 28 Sunday, reports UNB.

The arrested are Assistant General Secretary of Melandha Government College Students Union Hafizur Rahman (JCD), former VP of the college union Khalilur Rahman Khalil and another JCD leader Thandoo.

They were arrested on charge of killing Khogen Sarkar (50) while he was returning home from Melandha Bazar on March 18. His belongings were also looted by the miscreants, police said.

Khogen, an employee of the shop Hemendra Sing in the town went to Melandha for collecting money from business agents.

NARAIL

60 pc waterbodies lying unutilised

Apr 3: Khulna Division can produce an additional amount of 10 lakh tons fish worth about Taka 45 crore annually by utilizing derelict waterbodies, a survey report said, reports UNB.

According to the report, there are about 65,000 derelict tanks, ponds and beels covering an area of 33,000 acres in the greater Khulna, Jessore, Kushiya, Barisal and Patuakhali districts.

Experts said an additional amount of 10 lakh tons fish

TANGAIL

190 cartons of Saudi dates distributed

Apr 2: Bangladesh Islamic Foundation, Tangail branch distributed 190 cartons of Saudi dates among the mullahs of different mosques of the district recently, reports BSS.

Deputy Director of the Islamic Foundation said that each carton contained 20 kilograms of dates.

could be produced by the proper utilization of the derelict water bodies and by adopting scientific method of cultivation.

It may be mentioned that about 60 per cent of the water bodies are lying unutilised for a long time.



NARAYANGANJ: Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury is seen distributing certificates among the executives of the Lions Club of Narayanganj Mid City at a function held at local auditorium recently. —Star photo

60 pc primary schools facing accommodation problem

MOULAVIBAZAR, Apr 3: At least 60 per cent government primary schools in the district are facing problems to accommodate the increasing number of students, reports UNB.

Most of the schools are in dilapidated condition and shortage of teachers, benches and other necessary appliances have made the situation worse.

According to official sources, about two lakh students are now studying in about 700 government and non-government primary schools in the district. Everyday the number of students are increasing.

Many schools damaged by natural calamities such as recurrent floods, cyclones and storms during the last few years are yet to be repaired. A good number of schools are holding classes in the open causing enormous problems to both the teachers and students.

Many dilapidated schools were handed over to Facilities Department but nothing has yet been done in this regard.

In many schools students are to sit on mats due to lack of benches and teachers are facing problems in taking classes due to shortage of chalk, dusters and blackboards.

Another report from Netrakona adds: Education of the students in the district for the new academic year is being hampered due to shortage of text books from class six to class nine.

The guardians alleged that some dishonest book traders taking advantage of the flaw in distribution system of the Text Book Board have been creating artificial scarcity to earn wind-fall profit.

The text books which are available in the market are also being sold at exorbitant prices causing problems to the poor students.

Due to scarcity of text books most of the students are to depend on note books which are readily available in book shops. As a result they acquire little knowledge on the subjects.

The government has imposed ban on publishing and selling note books upto class eight. But publishing and selling of note books with the fictitious names go on unhindered.

While contacted some book traders said wrong distribution system and late delivery of the Text Book Board books are mainly responsible for the text book crisis. They also admitted that some book sellers are involved in creating artificial scarcity to earn maximum profit.

Blacksmiths in Kishoreganj need proper patronisation

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 3: Blacksmith community of the district is facing numerous problems due to lack of proper patronisation and financial support to carry on their ancestral occupation, reports UNB.

The blacksmiths are producing agricultural appliances including axe, dao, nail, knife, etc. But due to fund shortage and absence of bank loan they are facing problems to continue their age-old profession.

The prices of main ingredients like firewood, coal, iron and chemicals have shot up in the market when the price of their products have come down alarmingly causing great hardship to them.

Finding no other alternative, a good number of blacksmiths in Sadar, Hossainpur, Karimganj, Katiadi, Tarail, Bhairab, Baitpur, Pakundia and Itna have already given up their ancestral profession.

Meanwhile, many of them have turned into beggars and day labourers to earn their livelihood.

Meanwhile, members of the blacksmith community urged the authorities to come forward to save the industry by providing loans and other assistance on emergency basis.

Another report adds: Kutchra latrines have become a public nightmare posing a threat to public health in the district headquarters for quite a long time.

Human excrements get scattered polluting the environment. Flies, mosquitoes and other insects carry germs spreading the diseases among the town dwellers.

Many kutchra latrines have been set up by the side of the roads, rivers and canals much to the inconvenience of the local people.

When contacted the district Public Health and Engineering Department officials said they had adequate stock of rings and slabs for low-cost sanitary latrines but the people were least interested to install those.

Local elite suggested demolition of all kutchra latrines in the town areas and installation of low-cost sanitary latrines with the joint initiative of police, health and municipal authorities.



RANGPUR: Kotwali thana police recovered about five thousand Indian chocolate bomb, crackers and toy bomb worth about Tk 30,000 from different shops of Rangpur town area recently. —Star photo

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Apr 3: A young man was killed and two others were injured by lightning in Golapganj thana recently.

According to the reports, at about 7 am on the day of incident, the victim Tunu Miah (35) was struck by lightning while he was on his way to field.

The victims hail from village Rajapur under Bhadeswar union of Golapganj thana.

Gun snatched away

The SBBL gun snatched away by the armed miscreants from a house of Golapganj thana was recovered by the police of Barlekha thana under Moulvibazar district recently.

It may be stated here that, a gang of dacoits took away the gun while committing dacoity in the house of one Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury of village Gird under Golapganj thana.

Miscreants loot valuables

A daring dacoity was committed in the house of one Jainul Abedin, Headmaster of Muktila Government Primary School of Golapganj thana under Sylhet district recently.

The armed miscreants looted valuables worth about Taka two lakh from the house.

According to the reports, a gang of armed dacoits attacked the house at midnight with deadly weapons. They took away gold ornament, clothes, two-in-one, cash and other valuables worth about over Taka two lakh from the house.

The miscreants managed to escape alongwith the booty safely.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Police. But no action had yet been reported, it is alleged.

One killed in road mishap

A young girl was killed and ten others were injured in a road accident at Pathantola area of Sylhet town recently.

According to the reports, A tempo was on its way to Takerbazar having started from Bhantala. When it reached near Pathantola, met the accident as turned turtle when the driver tried to save a dog.

Amina Begum (17) succumbed to her injuries. She died at the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital.

Nine others also received injuries. Seven had been admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital while the others were given first-aid.

A case had been registered with the Kotwali police station.

20 hurt in rival groups clash

At least 20 persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups at village Chharaboi under Sheola union of Beanibazar thana recently.

The incident occurred following an exchange of hot words over cutting a bundh at the village.

Of the injured, Giasuddin Ahmed, a Union Parishad Member had been admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital at a critical condition. Sixteen others had been admitted to the Beanibazar thana Health Complex. They are, Moktar Ali (30), Abdul Maltque (62), Abdul Hasib (33), Abdus Salam (64) Parul Begum, (25), Hawarunnessa (60), Modoris Ali (70), Nasiruddin (61), Raisuddin (45), Haji Mujamil Ali (55), Alauddin (65), Luthfar Rahman (30), Jashim Uddin (32), and Gousuddin(35).

A case had been registered with the police station.

Workshop ends in Kulaura

MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 3: A 10-day long workshop arranged by the Asian Friendship Society was concluded in Kulaura thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

The workshop was attended by the participants from Japan, Nepal, Thailand, India and Bangladesh.

A number of slab-latrine, tube-wells and community centres were set up in some selected areas of the thana during the workshop. The workshop took various steps to create mass awareness on primary health care and sanitation system.

Local people took great interest at the services rendered by the society and extended all cooperation in holding the workshop.

The society was established in 1985 with the objective to develop friendship and extend material help among the people of Asian countries.

People urged to take part in development activities

RAJSHAHI, Apr 3: State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain has said democracy had been established in the country with the sacrifice of lives of martyrs in the Independence War and nine years of struggle against the autocracy, reports BSS.

He said, it was now our sacred duty to consolidate the hard-earned democracy for achieving socio-economic emancipation of the masses and make the independence meaningful.

The State Minister was addressing a function organised on the occasion of Independence Day here yesterday.

Organised by local Sagorepore Mukhtisangha, the function was addressed, among other, by BNP district General Secretary Advocate Kamrul Monir, Commandant of 20 Rifle Battalion Major Chowdhury Fazlul Bari and BNP leader Saichuddin Baby.

Kabir Hossain said the BNP government was endeavouring hard to help maintain rule of law pursuing pragmatic policies. He said if rule of law prevails, security of life would be ensured and terrorism, corruption, smuggling and other vices would be contained. As a result, production in fields and factories would be increased and political and economic stability would be ensured, he added.

Kabir Hossain called upon the people to take part in nation building activities being imbued with inspiration of Independence War.

Sale of sub-standard drugs unabated

SATKHIRA, Apr 3: Sub-standard drugs are being sold in seven thanas of Satkhira district, it is alleged.

According to a source, there are about 250 drug stores (pharmacy) in Satkhira district but many of them have no licences.

It is learnt that a section of dishonest medicine businessmen are selling sub-standard medicine to the innocent and helpless patients from the drug stores without any hesitation. Besides expiry date over medicines are also being sold in the markets.

Patients buying these kinds of sub-standard medicines are not getting expected result. On the contrary, the owners of many stores in the district and rural areas are giving prescriptions of the patients in general and illiterate in particular, although they have no knowledge about the medical science.

It may be mentioned here that some doctors prescribe low standard or sub-standard medicine to the people for their benefit.

Besides, there are a large number of quacks in the rural areas of the district. They sell their local made medicine in hats and bazars of the district.

The patients are being affected after treatment by the quacks from the side effect and reaction due to wrong treatment.

Two to suffer 4 yrs RI for smuggling

COMILLA, Apr 3: Two persons were sentenced to four years rigorous imprisonment for smuggling in a verdict delivered here Sunday, reports UNB.



AGRI-VARSITY: The US Ambassador in Bangladesh William B. Milam called on the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof. M. Ashraf Ali Khan at the latter's official residence on March 30. —Star photo

Re-excavation of Bhairab river progressing fast

JESSORE, Apr 3: The 50-kilometre long Bhairab river re-excavation work is progressing in full swing, reports BSS.

The project has been undertaken to make the river navigable, facilitate irrigation for cultivation and develop fish cultivation.

According to an official source, 10,000 metric tons of wheat worth Taka 6.20 crore has been sanctioned for the implementation of the project.

During the current season re-excavation work of about five kilometres from Khairirola Bridge to Modhugonj Bridge will be done. About three thousand workers have been engaged.

Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister, Tariqul Islam

People urged to come forward for spreading mass education

MUNSHIGANJ, Apr 3: Food Minister M Shamsul Islam Friday called upon the younger generation to do their best to enrich Bangla language and literature for the greater interest of our national culture and heritage, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at a discussion on the development of mother tongue for the development of the nation. The discussion organised by Rampal Gono Pathagar was held at its office premises, seven km from here.

Md Sakhawat Hossain, Director, National Book Centre, MA Huq, Deputy Commissioner, Munshiganj and M Mosarraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Deputy General Manager, Sonali Bank attended the meeting as special guests. The meeting was presided over by Md Mujibur Rahman.

Meer Belayet Hossain, M Idris Ali, Prof Almasuddin Hawladar, Advocate Serajul Huq, Principal Borhanuddin Dewan and Md Shahjahan among others participated in the discussion.

The minister said that Bangladesh has a rich cultural heritage and it is the duty of all to play their due role for its advancement.

Shamsul Islam called upon the people to come forward for spreading mass education in the society.

The function was rounded off with a musical soiree.