

District roundup

MADARIPUR

Strike observed protesting alleged corruption of police constable

Apr 4: A four-hour strike was observed here at Charmuguria port protest against the alleged corruption of a police constable on Thursday, reports UNB.

All shops and business establishments were closed and all modes of vehicles including rickshaws went off the road during the strike which continued from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

Thousands of people brought out a procession and chanted slogans against Habidder Abdul Jabbar and demanded his immediate removal.

The processionists also held a protest rally at rice market which was chaired by Peraz Hawlader Litu and addressed, among others, by Mofiz Talukder, Farhad Khalashi, Fatik Munshi and Pura Commissioner Sadikur Rahman Maslu.

The speakers alleged that the habidder has been collecting tolls from the local businessmen for a long time. He took a number of law abiding citizens to the police outpost and released them after taking money. They also alleged that many couples and brothers and sisters were harassed by him when they went to a local cinema hall. They urged the authorities to probe into the allegation and take immediate action against him.

When contacted Charmuguria police outpost officials informed that Jabbar has already been posted to police outpost No. 2 in Madaripur town.

SIRAJGANJ

Three children hurt in bomb explosion

Apr 4: Three children were injured when some bombs were exploded at a homestead in Sayadhangara area of the town at 8 on Saturday, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

Ashraf (5) and Pannu (4) were admitted to the hospital in a critical condition.

Inhabitants of the area suspected three bombs were exploded when those were being made.

Owner of the house Manzoor Mursheed Khan denying this said his foes lobbed the bombs in his house.

KHULNA

Discussion meet held

Apr 4: Speakers at a discussion meeting jointly organised by Khulna Press Club and Khulna Union of Journalists called for upholding the ideals of War of Liberation and to portray correct history of the struggle for independence, reports BSS.

The discussion meeting was held Wednesday at the Khulna Press Club premises in celebration of the Independence Day.

The discussion meeting was addressed among others by Professor Ali Ahmed, Humayun Kabir Balu, Wadudur Rahman Panna, Shaikh Abdul Katum, Hare Krishna Bhola, Zakir Hossain and Rafiqul Islam.

Another report adds: 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, Kushtia, Barisal and Patuakhali districts.

Experts said an additional amount of 10 lakh tons fish

JHENIDAH

One shot dead by armedmen

Apr 4: A person was shot dead at Kullagacha village under Harinakunda thana of the district Wednesday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Abdul Wahab (60) a farmer of the village. He was shot in his sleep at his residence on Wednesday morning.

It has been alleged that a group of armedmen entered the house of Wahab and shot him. The miscreants fled from the scene.

Police recovered the body and sent to morgue for autopsy.

A case has been filed with the local thana.

At least 17 people were killed in the district last month.

Police meanwhile has set up 18 special camps to curb terrorism in the area.

SYLHET

MC College reunion concludes

Apr 4: Sylhet MC College held a grand reunion of its former students on the occasion of its 111th founding anniversary, on Friday, reports UNB.

Elderly Educationist Muslim Chowdhury opened the function at the auditorium of the college established in 1882 by Raja Girish Chandra.

Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal Science and Technology University Sadruddin Ahmed Chowdhury was the special guest at the reunion attended by some 600 ex-students, now established in various fields, along with their families.

The function included reminiscence and a musical soiree.

JAMALPUR

Chairman, ward commissioners take oath

Apr 4: Oath taking ceremony of the newly-elected Pourashava Chairman and Commissioners Jamalpur was held at local Public Hall on Sunday, reports UNB.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haq was present as chief guest at the function.

The Deputy Commissioner Jalal administered the oath.

Fazur Rahman was elected Chairman in the last pourashava Jamalpur election.

Another report adds:

Melandah police arrested three student leaders for alleged involvement in a murder case on March 28 Sunday.

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

JESSORE

Shaheed Anwar's death anniversary observed

Apr 4: The 22nd death anniversary of Shaheed Lt. Anwar Hossain was observed Tuesday at the local Kazi Nazrul Islam Degree College premises.

On this day the young Lieutenant of the then 1st Bengal Regiment stationed at Jessore Cantonment fought gallantly against the Pak army and embraced shahadat, reports BSS.

The programme included ziarat at the grave premises in front of the college, milad mahfil, photo exhibition on liberation war and discussion meeting.

Prof. Hasan Waz, Chairman, Jessore Education Board presided over the discussion meeting.

Speaker called upon all to uphold the spirit of Liberation War and translate the dream of the martyrs into reality by leading the country towards progress and prosperity.

FENI

Dacoit nabbed

Apr 4: Police arrested a dacoit and foiled an attempt of dacoity at Muhuri-Irrigation Project area in the town early Friday, reports UNB.

A gang of dacoits numbering about 15 broke into the store room of Muhuri-Irrigation Project assaulting its guard and tried to take away pump machinery worth about Taka 18 lakh at gun point.

The miscreants forcibly opened the store room of the mechanical department of the project taking the key from the guard.

Then they packed up several pump machine spareparts valued at Taka 18 lakh but left the place as the patrol police rushed to the spot after hearing hue and cry of the local people.

Police arrested Jinal Abedin of village Ahmadpur in Sonagazi of the district while the others managed to flee.

A case was filed with Feni police in this connection.

COMILLA

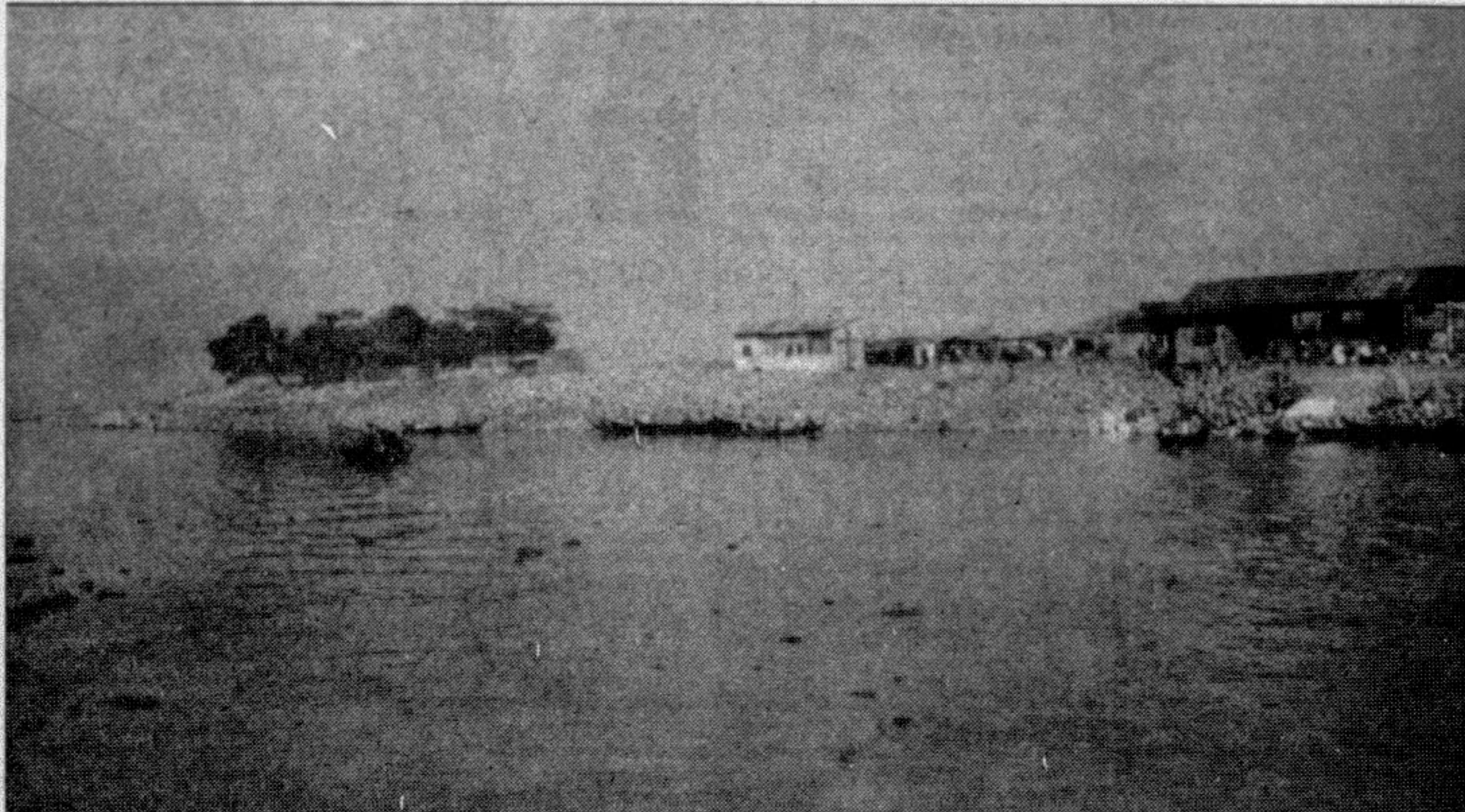
Property worth Tk one lakh gutted

Apr 4: A devastating fire gutted property worth about Taka one lakh at Allahabad village in Devidwar thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said three dwelling houses and a cow shed were completely burnt to ashes and damaged 20 maunds of potato.

The fire originated from burning dry leaves at a cow shed.

Local people extinguished the fire.



CHANDPUR: Boulders are dumped along the bank of the river Meghna at Chandpur Natun Bazar to protect the town from the erosion of the river. — Star photo

Unabated use of firewood in brickfields hastening deforestation

NARAIL, Apr 4: Rampant use of firewood despite government ban in the brickfields of the district is going on unabated hastening the process of deforestation, reports UNB.

Brickfield owners are using trees as fuel despite availability of coal in the depots, local people alleged.

Besides bamboos are also being used as fuel for burning bricks in all the 10 brickfields while age-old pine trees, mango and other fruit bearing trees are being felled down.

Date trees, on the other hand, are being chopped down indiscriminately to feed the brickfields affecting production of molasses, they added.

Meanwhile, the environmentalists have expressed grave concern over the increasing felling of trees which is affecting the ecological balance in the district.

The government in July, 1989, imposed ban on using firewood in brickfields to curb deforestation all over the country.

Local people urged the authorities to take proper action against the brickfield owners for violating government order without further delay.

Our Kishoreganj Correspondent says: Brick manufacturers are using firewoods for burning bricks violating the Brick Burning Control Act 1987.

There are at least 100 brickfields in Kishoreganj Sadar, Karimganj, Tarail, Hossainpur, Pakundia, Katiadi, Bhaiarab, Bajitpur and Kullarchar thanas of the district. Most of the brick manufacturers are using fire woods in the brickfields.

Eye witnesses said that a huge quantity of firewoods has been collected and stored at brickfields by the manufacturers.

In the meantime, the prices of all categories of bricks have recorded further rise affecting the construction works. The stock of bricks in the brickfields is satisfactory and there is no apparent reason for price hike.

When contacted a brick manufacturer told The Daily Star that the high wage of labourers and excise duty helped increase the price of bricks. At present, per thousand first class brick sells at Taka 2,000 to 2,200, class two at Taka 1,800 to 1,900 and inferior quality at Taka 1,450 to 1,700.

According to the forest resources of Kishoreganj district are on the verge of extinction as the brickfield owners are using trees as firewood, increasingly so, manufacturing bricks. A huge quantity of firewood is being consumed by the brickfields of the district every year. Firewood is being sold between Taka 60 and

Taka 80 per maund in the local market.

Use of firewood is prohibited by the government under "Forest Preservation Act" to maintain ecological balance. Use of firewood in the brickfields, according to experts, can be discouraged by arranging immediate supply of LP gas to manufacture bricks. Local people alleged fruits-bearing trees like mango, jack fruit, palm, black-berry, date-palm and other valuable species are being felled indiscriminately to use as firewood.

Firewoods are found openly piled up in huge quantity in the brickfields and it is alleged that the owner prefer them to coal for their cheap price. Some brickfield said the supply of coal was adequate and the brickfield owners use wood as it is comparatively cheaper.

It is widely alleged that the law enforcing authority in the district is quite indifferent regarding the indiscriminate use of firewood in the brickfields.

At least two lakh fifty thousand maunds of firewood are being used from December to April season by the brickfield owners in the district.

Our Natore Correspondent adds: Brickfield owners are using trees as fuel despite availability of coal in six thanas of the district.

Civic amenities absent in dists

BARGUNA, Apr 4: The town dwellers are facing manifold problems due to lack of civic amenities for quite a long time, reports UNB.

Almost all the roads in the town are too narrow and cracks and potholes have developed at many points hampering movement of vehicles.

Local people alleged that the roads once damaged are not repaired hampering movement of pedestrians. Condition of the roads become more deplorable during the rainy season.

Roadside drains with heavy silt overflow after a slight rainfall disrupting road communication. Kutchra latrines in the town area emits bad odor causing environmental pollution.

Most ponds are filled with water hyacinths and stagnant waters and garbages of roadsides are the ideal breeding centres for the mosquitoes.

The people of the locality use water of the nearby ponds and canals as most of the tubewells in the town are lying inoperative. As a result many people are suffering from intestinal diseases.

Garbage and filths are piled up in the local markets causing inconvenience to the buyers and sellers.

Education in the local schools are also hampered due to lack adequate number of

teachers, accommodation and teaching equipments.

Influx of beggars from the rural areas to the slums in the town are also creating environmental pollution.

Report from Dinajpur says: Dinajpur Pourashava has long been facing multifarious problems due to lack of basic civic amenities.

Local elite said deplorable condition of some roads, inadequate street light, absence of proper drainage system and sanitary arrangement, frequent power failure made the city life intolerable.

They said some of the roads are too narrow and cracks and potholes have developed at many points. The roads become muddy and slippery after a slight rainfall causing inconvenience to the movement of vehicles as well as pedestrians.

Besides, roadside ditches remained uncleaned and full of garbages which are the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes.

Most of the street light posts in the pourashava are have no bulb and most of the areas plunge into darkness after sunset.

The arrangement of water supply in the town was also said to be inadequate and most of the water pumps remained inoperative and the installation of new pumps are needed to meet the growing

demand for water.

Another report from Barguna states: Medicare facilities at the Bamna thana health complex are being hampered due to shortage of physicians, medicine and other necessary equipment for a long time.

Local people alleged that there is no blood bank in the hospital and lack of X-ray machine and shortage of technicians are hampering proper treatment of the patients.

Lack of required number of beds is a common feature in the hospital. A good number of patients of the locality have to go back disappointed for want of beds and proper treatment every day.

Patients alleged that it is quite difficult to find doctors on duty because most of the time they are busy with private practice. Moreover, instead of taking care of the patients the doctors suggest their patients to consult at their private chambers.

Report from Chandpur adds: About one lakh people of the Chandpur Pourashava are now getting supply of pure water after the completion of the construction work of the Iron Removal Plant.

The plant can supply 2.4 lakh liter of drinking water which will be reduced the spread of intestinal diseases to a great extent.

Notes from Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Apr 4: The secondary school students in the district have been facing many problems due to scarcity of text books in the local markets. Book dealers sources said the new books would not be made available till the old ones were sold.

It is reported that on the plea of short supply the book dealers demand exorbitant prices for the new text books. Guardians complained that their children have been facing difficulties to follow classes due to shortage of text books in the market.

Independence Day observed

Independence Day was observed here recently in a befitting manner.

In this connection, a discussion meeting was held at Chandpur Press Club with Md Yakub Ali, DC, Chandpur in the chair.

The meeting was addressed among others by Md Shaifuddin Ahmed, Quamruzzaman Chowdhury, Iqbal Hossain Patwari, Harunur Rashid Chowdhury, Fazul Haque Sarkar and Fazul Haque Talukder.

30,000 hectares of land under wheat farming

A total of about 30 thousand hectares of land have been brought under wheat cultivation in the seven thanas of the district during the current season.

About one lakh metric ton of wheat are, expected to be produced in the area. Agriculture Department has arranged some demonstration plots to educate the farmers about the scientific method of cultivation.

Mosquito menace alarming

Mosquito menace has increased alarmingly in Chandpur pourashava and the adjoining areas making life of the people miserable.

People cannot sit in the public places, offices, mosques and houses even at day time by mosquito bite.

The students specially the SSC examinees are the worst sufferers. The uncleaned drains, ponds and ditches have become ideal breeding places of the mosquitoes.

Mushroom growth of unlicensed medicine shops

Mushroom growth of unlicensed medicine shops in seven thanas of the district have been posing a threat to public health.

There are about two hundred unauthorised shops in different areas of the district.

It is reported the shops are selling sub-standard and date expired medicines.

It is reported that they are selling medicine at an exorbitant in the rural areas.

Sub-jail beset with problems

The Chandpur sub-jail is beset with manifold problems for a long time causing sufferings to the inmates.

The century old Chandpur sub-jail was constructed during the British rule. The jail can not accommodate increasing number of convicted and under trial prisoners due to space problems. The sub-jail has an accommodation capacity of thirty but the number has been increased to about two hundred. The prisoners complained that they cannot sleep at night for want of space.

Degree pass course introduced

Degree pass course have been introduced in Chandpur Purnanagar College during the current academic session.

The college authority said the Chittagong University has given the affiliation to the BA, BSc and B Com (Pass) course.

It is reported that the college was established in 1981 by some local businessmen and philanthropists.

Child labourers on rise in Maulvibazar

MAULVIBAZAR, Apr 4: The number of child labourers is increasing day by day different parts of the district causing concern among the social workers and conscious people, reports UNB.

Abject poverty compelled these tender-aged children to support their parents by earning livelihood instead of attending schools which is a fundamental right under UN convention.

These children under 15 years of age are found working in hotels and restaurants, workshops, garages and welding shops.

Besides, a good number of children are engaged as newspapers hawkers and rickshaw-pullers for their survival.

These under privileged children get a nominal wage from their masters without having any guarantee for the jobs. They work more than 10 hours a day and earn Taka 15 to 20 to support their family.

The child labourers are deprived of proper diet and medical facilities. Most of them suffer from various diseases due to malnutrition.

Those who work in the houses as domestic servants or maid are often physically tortured by their masters. Some of them are found moving door to door begging alms.

According to the International Labour Laws, the children under 15 are not allowed to take up hard work. But the law is not being enforced at all in the country.

Taking advantage of the situation, privileged class of the society are exploiting these children by paying a nominal fee as their salary. In some cases, they work for food in lieu of wages.

Local people urged the authorities to take schemes to rehabilitate these children so that they can enjoy minimum rights as human being.

Make CPE programme a success, says Harun

SINGAIRBIL (Brahmanbaria), Apr 4: State Minister for Shipping Harun-Al-Rashid on Friday inaugurated the newly constructed 22.87 metre long Saldah Bridge at a cost of Taka 17 lakh 20 thousand, reports BSS.

Local government engineering department has constructed the bridge with the financial assistance of IDA and reconstructed bhabsans of Rupa government primary school, Bishnupur government primary school and Dulapur government primary school at a cost of Taka 3 lakh 90 thousand for each.

On the occasion, a public meeting was held with the president of Singairbil North Union BNP Unit Abdur Rouf Bhuiyan in the chair of Dulapur primary school ground on Friday.

The state minister said that the present government was committed to expedite the national development process by building up the infrastructure in the country especially in communication and education sector.

Referring to the different development programmes initiated by the present government, the state minister said, that development of road communication infrastructures was essential for promoting a self-reliant economy and development of educational institutions for increasing the literacy rate in the country.

He called for greater participation to make compulsory primary education programme a success.

In the meeting Awami League leader and Chairman of Pattan Union Parishad Abul Basher Bhuiyan, Chairman of Ishapura South Union Parishad Mizanur Rahman and Chairman of Singairbil North Union Parishad Shaiful Hoq along with their followers, joined BNP to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The state minister welcome the newly entrants and urged them help materialise the on-going development programmes initiated by the BNP government throughout the country.



GOPALGANJ: Abdul Motaleb Mia, Deputy Commissioner, Gopalganj speaking at local public hall on the occasion of Independence and National Day on March 26. —Star photo

Two to die for murder

FARIDPUR, Apr 4: Two youngmen were sentenced to death today for murdering a youngman in broad daylight on July 7, 1992, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abul Mansoor found guilty Qudus (28) and Idu (32), both farmers of Bhangra village, for killing of Dabiruddin Fakir of the same village and handed down the death sentence.

Two other accomplices in the murder — Akkas and Shadhat — were sentenced to jail for life.

In another case, the judge today sentenced 4 persons to life imprisonment for murdering Saidur Rahman of Saipur village in Kotwali thana on October 3, 1988.

The convicts are Lablu, Batash, Alamgir Mridha and Amjad Khan.

UNB report from Saikhira adds: A man was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing his lover in a judgement awarded here in Wednesday.

The convict Wazed Moral of Taltala in Sadar thana was also fined Taka 5,000 and in default to suffer a year more RI.

According to the prosecution, the accused killed Lakti Rani Das of the same village on December 7, 1988 by poisoning. They were having an affair at the time of the killing.

Police submitted charge-sheet against the accused after investigation.

Additional Session Judge Tapan Kumar Rudra after examining 16 witnesses and record of the case found the accused guilty after examining 16 witnesses and record of the case and delivered the judgement.

Road mishaps take 3 lives

SATKHIRA, Apr 4: Two boys were killed when a speeding bus knocked them down at Laisha in Sadar thana last night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Tarique Islam (10) and Habibullah (12) of the village were hit by the bus while they were returning home at about 9 pm.

Tarique died on the spot while Habibullah succumbed at the Sadar hospital shortly after admission.

The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with the local police but the driver, however, managed to flee with the vehicle.

Another report from Sherpur adds: A man was run over by a speeding truck at Ghasamollapara in Jhenaidag thana, 10 kilometre north of the town on Sherpur-Jhenaidag road on Saturday last.

Bishu (10) of Shamarchora village in Nalitbari thana while riding a bicycle at 10 am was knocked down from behind and run over by the truck of the Korean construction company "Sun Whoan". He died on the spot.

Diarrhoea claims 8 lives, affects 577 in dists

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 4: At least 8 persons died of diarrhoea and 577 persons were affected during the last 24 hours in six southern districts of the country.

Of them, 3 persons died in Barisal, 3 in Patuakhali and 1 each in Jhalakathi and Proszpur.



SYLHET: Mohammad Enamul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Women's Affairs, seen giving loan money, at the inaugural ceremony of credit distribution, from the Prime Minister's Special Fund for the Rehabilitation and Welfare of Distressed Women at Sylhet recently. — Star photo