District roundup

MYMENSINGH

One killed, 25 injured in road mishap

Apr 18: One person died and at least 25 passengers were injured on Friday when a minibus turned turtle into a roadside ditch at Bailav Mathbari near Trishal on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway; reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said the victim was identified as Amiruddin (50).

Five of the injured persons were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Passengers of the minibus said due to reckless driving the driver lost control of the vehicle. The mini bus skidded off the road and turned turtle in a pond.

BRAHMANBARIA

Tk seven lakh property burnt to ashes

From our Correspondent

Apr 18: Property worth about Taka seven lakh was gutted when a devastating fire broke out at village Khalla in Bancharampur thana here recently.

The fire, originated from a kitchen of Abul Kashem of the village, spread to eight of the neighbouring houses and burnt them to ashes.

Five families were learnt to redered homeless in the fire, however, none was injured.

According to villagers, properties including cash money amounting Taka 20,000 were burnt in the fire.

NARSINGDI

Property worth Tk 75,000 gutted

Apr 18: Property worth about Taka 75,000 was gutted in devastating fire at Belanagar market on Tuesday, reports

According to witnesses, the fire originating from a shop soon engulfed the adjacent areas and charred three shops:

Fire brigade units from the district headquarters rushed to the spot and extinguashed the fire.

The affected shopkeepers have urged the authorities to grant financial help to carry on their business without further.

BORGUNA

Night post office absent Apr 18: Absence of a night

post office in the town has been causing inconvenience to the local people particularly the bus ness community, reports UNB.

Since the town is growing gradualy, the present post office which remains open from 10 am to 1 pm cannot cope with the heavy load of postal transactions. Many people have to go back disappointed every day as they cannot contact the busy officials.

The business community is facing problem in carrying out their daily transactions due to absence of a night post office.

The town dwellers have urged the Postal Department to look into the matter and set up a night post office in the town iramediately.

KHULNA

Week-long saving campaign begins

Apr 18: A week-long saving campaign began at Umesh Chandra Public Library auditorium here on Saturday, reports

Organised by Regional Directorate of National Savings. Khulna Division, the campaign was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner A M Choudhury The function was also addressed, among others, by Nazimuddin. Principal of Khulna City College, Sultan Ahmed Mollah, General Manger of Bangladesh Bank. Khulna and Md Sclim, Deputy

Post Master General Southern. Choudhury called from creating social awareness about the benefit of savings in individual and national life so that habit of savings could be grown among the people of all walks of life. Describing saving as the friend in need, he underlined the need for abstaining from wastage and luxury and opined that savings could ensure anxiety-free life even in the old

To make this week a success various programme have been taken by national savings. Khulna office which include, discussion meetings, seminar and motivational activities during the campaign period.

JHENIDAH

Diabetic Assoc unit executives

Apr 18: A 31-member diabetic association was formed in Jhenidah with Dr Rezaul Karim Benu and Principal Tobarak Hossain as President and Secretary respectively Friday, reports UNB.

The association was formed at a meeting organised by some clite and doctors at Jhenidah Red Crescent premises.

Dr SK Mukharjee presided over the meeting which was also attended by local MP Moshiur Rahman.

NARAYANGANJ

Mobile court seize Jatka fish, files case against five people Apr 18: A mobile court in a

drive seized Jatka fish worth about Taka 9,000 and filed cases against five people to enforce the Fish Preservation Law 1950, reports UNB.

A PID handout said Thursday that the court seized 14 baskets of Jatka fish from Narayangani Ghat no-5 on April 13 for violation of Fisheries Taka 8,800 from the auc-

tion of the seized fish was given to the national exche-

During the drive, the court officials requested all concerned to maintain the fisheries laws properly.

SIRAJGANJ

Minor girl killed in house collapse

Apr 18: A minor girl was killed in house collapse at a village in sadar thana during

storm Thursday, reports UNB. Villagers said the five-yearold daughter of day labourer Abdul Sheikh was killed in the house collapse at village Chhotodiar Char.

NARAIL

Number of beggars on rise

Apr 18: Alarming increase in the number of beggars in the town has become a problem for the dwellers, reports

A large number of floating people from remote areas have been pouring into town in search of food and work. These people have been rendered homeless due to natural calamities like recurrent floods, drought, cyclone and river erosion.

However, it is being observed that both the able bodied male and female members of the floating people are preferring begging to physical labour.

Local people alleged that some beggars are involved in anti-social activities. Besides, destitute young women are found resorting to immoral ac-

Rajbari

Seven people hurt in clash

Apr 18: Seven people were injured and valuables worth about Taka 3 lakh damaged at Kashbamazail village of Pangsha thana in a clash between two

rival groups, reports UNB. According to witnesses, a group of people attacked the houses of Sahmsuddin Ahmed Sama and Jaj Ali Biswas on April 8. set the houses on fire and assaulted seven people in-

looted the valuables. Police said following an old enmity over the last union parishad election the two groups were engaged in rivalry

cluding 2 women. They also

for a long time. Seriously injured 4 were admitted to the thana health complex Two separate cases were filed with the local police by the two groups. Tension is

prevailing in the area. BARISAL

393 people held on various charges

Apr 18: Police arrested 393 people including 103 members of the outlawed Sharbahara Party from different parts of the district on vartous charges during the last three months, reports UNB.

They also recovered 19 firearms and 64 ammunition including 11 country made pipe guns, two 303 rifles, one double barrel gun, one revolver, one cut rifle and 21 hand bombs, police said.



RANGPUR: A group of people brought out a procession here demanding due share of the -Star photo Ganges water recently.

Wild animals decreasing

NARAIL, Apr 18: The number of wild animals is decreasing day by day in the district due to various reasons for quite a long time, reports UNB.

Kalia, Lohagora and Sadar thanas of the district were once famous for different kinds of wild animals, such as fox, jackal, wild cat and wolf. But these are now rarely found.

These animals mainly kill rats and other harmful insects and thus save the crops of the farmers all over the district The farmers were benefited much and the ecological balance was maintained to a large extent due to the presence of these animals, sources said.

But during the last three decades the number of wild animals have decreased in an alarming proportion.

The population of the district has been increasing at an alarming rate. Every year new human settlements are sprung up by clearing jungles. indiscriminate clearing of the jungles and cutting of trees to use as firewood have badly affected the wild animals' habi-

On the contrary, these wild-animals mainly live on fish and frogs. Indiscriminate catching of fish and fry and siltation of different water bodies like river, canal, haor, beel and ponds cause the scarcity of fish which has affected the very existence of the wild animals.

Besides, the frog population has became almost extinct due to the rampant killing by a section of unscrupulous traders and spraying of insecticides in the cropfields. Local people urged the con-

cerned authorities to take proper steps to save the wild animals from further extinction to maintain ecological and environmental balances. Another report adds: Mushroom growth of hotels

and restaurants all over the district has been posing serious health hazards to the local With the development of the towns and consequent in-

crease in the population, these

hotels and restaurants have

sprung up beside roads and lanes in a haphazard manner.

Most of these hotels are dirty and uncleaned. Foodstuffs prepared and stored in most unhygienic way are served to the customers causing health hazards. Since there is no licensed residential hotel in the thana headquarters people have no other alternative but to go to these hotels, sources

It is alleged that district and thana health administrations after repeated appeals failed to take any step in this regard. Some people complained that dishonest health officials are involved in taking monthly tolls from the hotel and restaurant owners.

Adulterated edibles includ ing soyabean oil, ghee, coconut oil are being used frequently in these hotels and restaurants.

Local leaders urged the concerned authority to take proper and immediate steps to stop selling of adulterated and unhygienic foodstuffs to the customers.

Pahela Baishakh celebrated

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Apr 18: Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bengali vear 1400 was celebrated throughout the district with traditional festivity and enthusiasm.

To welcome the Pahela Baishakh disserent sociocultural organisations arranged functions befitting the day. The Kurigram unit of Shilpakala Academy and "Samprotik", a literary and cultural organisation arranged day long programmes

Shafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram, while addressing the gathering at the local pourashava hall room said that the Pahela Baishakh comes every year with the promise of newer prospects and possibilities by discarding the old and worn

The days' functions also included opening of hal khata at business firms, exchange of greetings, milad mahfils, and distribution of sweets. Traditional Baishaki Mcla was also held at the pourashava

Maulvibazar

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent says: Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the new Bengali year 1400 was celebrated in the district with traditional fervour and enthusiasm.

In connection with the observance of the day, separate Programmes were chalked out by different socio-cultural organstations. The Programmes of the day included discussion meeting, cultural function and processions.

Barsho Baran Festival, organised by Year 1400 Celebration Council was the main attraction of the Programme held at Moulvibazar pourashava office premises. The council had set up a stage and different cultural organsiations of the town displayed attractive perfor-

The Year 1400 Celebration

Council, Shubhadeep Khel-

aghar Asar and Awami Shilpi Gusthi brought out separate processions. The proces sionists with colourful dressed paraded the main streets of the town.

Mymensingh

BSS from Mymensingh reports: A seven-day long pro gramme has been taken up jointly by the district administration and other socio-cultural organizations here to celebrate the Bengali year 1400 in a be-

State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan on Wednesday inaugurated the week long programme at the premises of local town hall.

Presided over by AFM Matiur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, Festival Organising Committee the inaugural function was addressed among others by AKM Fazlul Hoque MP, Md Shamsul Hoque MP, Delwar Hussain Khan, Chairman, Mymensingh Pourashava, Nazimuddin Hussain and Prof Abul Kashem.

The week-long programme includes colourful procession, discussion meetings, cultural function, drama, jatra and Baishaki Mela

Kushtia

Another report from Kushtia says: Various socio-cultural and other organsiations chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the Bangla new year 1400 in a befitting manner.

Kush ia Paurashava organised a three-day Baishakhi Mela at its premises. The mela included exhibition of handi crafts and traditional cultural functions.

Kushtia Islamia College or ganised a three-day mela at its premises to mark the Bangla Kushtia Press Club and

Pubali Library held a discussion meeting to welcome the new

Shilpakala Academy and

Shishu Academy organised musical soiree and painting exhibition respectively. Sweets were distributed among the students of different schools in the town.

Netrakona

Another report from Netrakona: The five-day long Baishakhi Mela and tribal cultural festival began on Wednesday at Birshiri Tribal Cultural Academy premises here to mark the Bangla new year 1400.

The Whip of Treasury Bench in Jatiya Sangsad Advocate M A Karim inaugurated the programme, the inaugural function was presided over by Abdul Bari, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO), Durgapur, Dr M Nizamuddin, Director, Birishiri Tribal Cultural Academy among others spoke on the occasion.

Joydevpur

Another message from Joydevpur: A discussion on the significance of observance of Bangla new year was held at the office of the weekly 'Ganomukh' here on Wednesday.

Presided over by Prof Amjad Hossain, Editor, Gonomukh, the discussion was addressed among others by Advocate Jebunnesa Mina, poet Mansurul Huq, Abdul Karim and Rocya Akhtar Baby.

Comilla

UNB from Comilia reports The Fourteenth Century of Bengali calendar was the century for the advancement of democracy in most of the countries including Bangladesh, Commerce Minister MK Anwar said.

He was addressing a threeday folk fair at Homna in Comilla with President of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the chair. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum inaugurated the function.



AGRI-VARSITY (MYMENSINGH): Artistes are rendering songs at a cultural programme arranged under the auspices of Bangladesh Agricultural university (BAU) Club on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh at the BAU campus on April 14. ---Star photo

Madaripur Thana Pry Teachers Assoc executives

Apr 18: Abdur Rashid Mapti, Assistant Head Master of Hazir Hawla Primary School and Abdul Mannan Hawlader, Head Master of Maddhya Housdi Primary School, have been elected President and Secretary respectively of the Madaripus Thana Primary Teachers Association (Azad), says a press release.

The newly elected office-

bearers are: Abdur Rashid Mapti (President), Abdur Rab Hawlader and Abdul Latif Hawlader and Fawzia Begum (Vice-Presidents): Abdul Mannan Hawlader (Secretary); BM Shahadat Hossain (Asstt Secretary); Abdus Salam Munshi (Joint Secy); Md Fazlur Rahman (Organising Secy); Abdur Razzaque Sikder, Headmaster, Durgabardi No 2 Govt Primary School (Education and Social Welfare Secy); Mrs Lutfun Nesa (Women's Secy); Mrs Shamsun Nahar (Asstt Women's Secy); Md Siddigur Rahman Finance Secy); Md Abu Baker (Sports Secy); and Md Nurul Amin (Office Secy).

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, Apr 18 Chicken pox has broken out in different areas of seven thanas of Satkhira district during the last one month.

The worst affected thanas are: Satkhira Sadar, Kaligoni, Kalaroa, Shyamnagor, Tala and some areas of Assassuni thana.

The number of the affected people now suffering from the disease is roughly estimated to be about 8 hundred, it is In some families the mem-

this disease one after another. Commissioners

take oath

bers are being attacked with

The newly elected chairman and commissioners of Satkhira pourasava were administered oath in a simple ceremony held recently at the pourasava premises here.

Strajuddówła ADC (General) and Administrator Satkhira Pourasava presided over the function. Chairman elect Abdul Jalil and nine commissioners took oath administered by Mujibur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira.

15 hurt in

tornado At least 15 persons were injured, 250 kutcha houses and standing crops damaged when a tornado swept over Shyamragar and Kaligani

thanas of the district. Accompanied by hailstorm, the tornado lasted for half an hour damaged standing rabi crops including water melon, various kinds of pulses and wheat have completely been damaged.

Works of canal

re-excavation on

The re-excavation project of 2200 metres long canal from the river Kabodak to Dadhisara beel under Tala thana is going on in full swing.

The re-excavation project is being implemented under the Food for Work Programme. For the purpose, 32,084 metric tons of wheat has been allo-One killed in

road mishap

One Habibullah (12) was killed, another minor boy Tariqui Islam (9) seriously injured in a road accident occurred at Lassa on Satkhira-

Jessore road recently. It is reported that a Dhakabound day coach of Diganta Partbahan knocked Habibullah and Tariqui while they were playing by the side of the road.

Police action on Nirmul body slated

Syed Kamal Bakht, President and Monsur Ahmed MP, General Secretary, Satkhira district Awami League, Prof. Abu Ahmed President, Jatiya Shramik League Satkhira district unit, and Golam Rasul General Secretary JSD (Inu) in separate statements condemned the police action on peaceful assembly of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee on March 26 and on March 28.

Habiganj Bar Assoc executives

HABIGANJ. Apr 18: Election of the district Bar Association was held on Friday amid much enthusiasm, reports UNB. Syed Afroj Bakht and

Faruque Uddin Chowdhury

Hossain Shajahan Biswash,

Najmul Haque Noman.

were elected as president and secretary respectively. Other members of the office-bearer are: Dewan Masud Chowdhury Vice-President, Meanwhile, engineering Saraful Bari Noman-Joint Secretary. The executive committee members are: Amir

Another report adds: Re-Atiq Ullah, A K Khan, Jheru Miah, Abdul Mutalib and excavation of thirteen canals is progressing fast in Barisal dis-

Scarcity of medicine in health complexes

NETRAKONA, Apr 18 Scarcity of medicine in different health complexes in the district has been causing inconvenience to the patients, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that simple medicines like dettol, paracetamol are not available in almost all the thana health complexes.

A huge number of patients coming from far flung areas to the thana health complexes everyday are to go back disappointed due to lack of proper treatment and admission facili-

Some of thana health complexes are without doctors and it is alleged that in the absence of physicians either compounder or staff members give prescriptions to the patients. The doctors posted in the

rural areas are reluctant to discharge their responsibilities as they are found busy to get transfer to elsewhere in urban or town areas.

It is also alleged that some

doctors without attending the

patients at the health complexes are found busy with their private practice. The physicians of the thana and union health complexes are also said to be unwilling to attend the outdoor patients

due to non-availability of medicines. According to official sources, Taka 2.5 lakh is sanctioned every year for medicine for about 20 lakh people in 10 thanas and two pourasabhas of the district which is quite insufficient to meet the local

Problems of small farmers uplift project discussed

A two-day Workshop on the problems of implementation of the Small Farmers Development Project (SFDP) and the development of its work manual was held under the auspices of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla at its campus, says a Press release.

Director General of BARD Dr K M Das inaugurated the workshop which was participated by BARD, SFDP, Janata Bank staff and grass-roots level workers and beneficiaries. Project Director of SFDP

Fazlul Bari, DGM of Janata Bank Rezaul Matin and Joint Director of BARD Mir Kasem took part in the discussions of the inaugural session while it was conducted by the Deputy Project Director of SFDP S M Abdul Mannan.

Manzurul Karim, Secretary of the Bangladesh Government and the Chief National Commissioner of Scout was

present at the second session as chief guest and gave away the prizes among the members of 10 beneficiary groups who have attained self-sufficiency in the project activities.

Small Farmers Development Project (SFDP), project of the government which aims at poverty alleviation, has so far organised 13,163 families in 2316 groups of 14 thanas of 5 districts of the country. Taka 3.3 crore has so far been disbursed as credit among the organised groups for 43 identifled income generating activi-

so far accumulated an amount of Taka 69.74 lakh from their weekly savings ranging from Taka 5 to 15 a week. The 57 members of 10

The organised groups have

groups who were awarded prizes for their performance had accumulated Taka 1.96 lakh from their savings.

Tk 300cr for repair of cyclone-hit areas

PATIYA, CHITTAGONG, Apr 18: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed has said the government has taken up a Taka 300 crore programme for building and repair of communication infrastructures at different places of cyclone devastated Chittagong, reports BSS.

He said 300 flood centres in greater Chittagong and 59 in the city were being constructed at a cost of Taka 55

Addressing a public meeting at Hulain Saleh-Noor College ground here on Wednesday, the Communications Minister said the reconstruction of the cyclone battered Karnafuli Bridge

Presided over by BNP leader Nurul Amin, the meeting was addressed, among othcrs, by Shahnewai Chowdhury MP Syed Wahldul Alam MP, Straful Islam MP, Ziaul Hag Zia MP, Rezaul Karim MP, M A Jinnah MP and district and thana BNP leaders.

Oli said present government had initiated a new process in the political history of the country. This process, he said, was in conformity with the necessity and aspirations of the people. He said the people's confidence would not be disgraced in the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as it was not done by President Zia in the past.



GAZIPUR: Safiuddin Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity addressing as chief guest at a meeting of local Sangbadik Samity held here recently. -Star photo

Over Tk 19 cr allocated for four projects

BARISAL, April 8: The Public Works Department (PWD) has been implementing four projects at an allocation of over Taka 19 crore in two thanas of Barisal district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects to be implemented include construction of a cattle and diary farm, textile institute, a thana health complex, and a multi-storied armed police battalion staff quarters.

Of the total, Taka 12 crore will be spent for the construction of a cattle and diary farm on 50 to 60 acres at Babugoni Thana. Taka 6 crore will be spent for a textile institute at Barisal town, one crore for 31bed thana health complex at Babugonj and Taka 20 lakh for an armed police battalion staff quarter at Barisal town.

works on these projects have been completed the construction work will start soon, the source said.

source, the government sanc-

tioned 487.2 metric tons of wheat for re-excavation of these 46 kilometer long canals under voluntary basis during the current dry season. On the average about 25 per

According to an official

cent work have already been completed. A total of 2,69,766 cubic metres of earth will be exca-

vated in these canals. About 15,000 acres will be brought under irrigation facilities after re-excavation of these canals.

40 shops gutted in Munshiganj About 40 shops were gutted

night of April 11 at Abdullahpur Bazar under Munshigani district. The amount of loses estimated at about Taka 40 lakh, reports BSS. Food Minister M Shamsul

by a devastating fire at mid-

Islam visited the bazar yesterday and expressed his sympathy to the fire victims.