

District roundup

MOULVIBAZAR

Miscreants kill petrol pump employee

Apr 19: A young man was killed by some unknown assailants in Sadar thana headquarters, police said Sunday, reports UNB.

Gopal Chandra Sarker (25), an employee of Padma Petrol Pump was attacked and slaughtered by the miscreants in the petrol pump at Jagannath area on Dhaka-Sylhet area on April 12.

Police recovered the body from a jackfruit tree near the petrol pump.

Police arrested Md Mustan, a night guard in this connection and the body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy.

Another report adds: A housewife of Kumrakapan village in Kamalganj thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison.

Jarina Begum (27), wife of Md. Nurul Islam of Kumrakapan village killed herself on April 2. The cause for her suicide could not be known immediately.

A case was filed with Kamalganj police in this connection.

JAMALPUR

Trains collide head on: 25 hurt

Apr 19: Two trains collided head on at Dewanganj railway station here Thursday last leaving at least 25 people injured, witnesses said, reports UNB.

The accident took place this afternoon when a Jamalpur-bound local train and a goods train entered the same rail track from opposite direction.

Engines of the trains were badly damaged and some 25 passengers of the local train were injured, said station master Yakub Ali. The drivers managed to escape unhurt.

Of the injured, 15 were admitted to Dewanganj Thana Health Complex.

Railway authorities have suspended a guard, one driver and a helper, the station master said.

Train services were disrupted for more than three hours following the accident as an inter-city train and some local trains could not move out from the station till 4 pm.

DINAJPUR

Municipal markets beset with problems

Apr 19: Local municipal markets are beset with various problems causing much inconvenience to the business community and dwellers, reports UNB.

There is no proper drainage system in the markets and stagnant water cannot pass easily creating problems to both the buyers and sellers.

Lack of accommodation and water supply hamper the smooth running of the markets. There is no dustbin in the markets and garbage is dumped in roadsides polluting the environment.

Shops and business centres have been erected haphazardly causing much suffering to the customers. Besides, no urinals and latrines in the markets are in good condition and people are to defecate in the silted drains causing health hazards.

Local people urged the district administration to take proper steps for improving the conditions of the markets without further delay.

SATKHIRA

One run over by speeding minibus

Apr 19: A man was run over by a speeding minibus at Majgunni in Tala thana on Khulna-Satkhira road Friday, reports UNB.

Rafiqul Islam (35) met the tragic end of his life while he was walking beside the road when the Satkhira-bound minibus (Khulna-Metro: Ba 59) coming from Khulna knocked him from behind.

The driver managed to escape with the vehicle. A case was filed with the police.

Another report adds: An old man was killed in a clash between the two rival groups at Balapota village in Kaliganj thana on the same day.

The victim Shahnaz (60) of the same village received severe injury during the clash which ensued over a family feud and died on the spot.

Both the groups used lethal weapons in the clash.

A case has been filed and police arrested one Rafiqul in this connection.

KUSHIA

JCD sweeps college union polls

Apr 19: The full panel of the Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal won the election of students union of Kushtia Polytechnic Institute, reports BSS.

The election was held on Tuesday. Mohammed Faruk and Mohammed Ishtak Ahmed have been elected vice-president and general secretary respectively of the students union.

The election was held peacefully.

NETRAKONA

Chicken pox breaks out alarmingly

Apr 19: Chicken pox has broken out in an alarming form in many parts of the district including the town, reports UNB.

With the onset of the dry season about 600 people in all the ten thanas have been attacked by the disease creating panic among the common people. The disease has already engulfed 45 unions out of 86 in the district.

The worst affected areas are Sadar, Atpara, Madan, Kendua, Mohanganj, Khaliazari, Kalkanda and Durgapur thanas.

Local people said the children were found more prone to chicken pox. No curative medicine is available in the areas for the treatment of the disease, they said.

The affected people have urged the concerned authorities to take measures to contain the spread of the disease.

RAJBARI

Tk 3 lakh valuables damaged in clash

Apr 19: 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 Sahmsudhir Ahamed Samia and Jay Ali Biswas on April 8, set the houses on fire and assaulted seven people including 2 women. They also looted the valuables.

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

CHUADANGA

Students swoop on bus: 20 hurt

Apr 19: At least 20 people were injured, three seriously, when Chhatra Maitri activists allegedly attacked a Mujibnagar-bound bus in the town Saturday last, reports UNB.

Police said the attack was a sequel to clashes earlier in the day between activists of Awami League backed Chhatra League and the Chhatra Maitri.

The two student groups had confronted each other in Chuadanga Government College premises and in the town over holding of the college student union election.

The BCL workers ransacked the offices of Chhatra Maitri and Workers Party at Barobazar area while their rivals attacked the house of local Awami League leader Solaiman Joarder Selun in the town.

The Chhatra Maitri activists later attacked the bus carrying Awami League and Chhatra League workers from Harinakunda of Jhenidah district to join a function at Mujibnagar on the occasion of Mujibnagar Day.

Seriously injured Alifazuddin (28), Latif (25) and Rabul (50) were admitted to Sadar Hospital. Alifaz was later shifted to Dhaka in a critical condition.

CHITTAGONG

One gets 14 yrs RI for keeping illegal arms

Apr 19: Jamil Hossain, an abacoender, who was sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment for keeping illegal arms, was arrested by a special squad of the Kotwali police from Dev Pahar here Saturday last, reports BSS.

According to a police press release, Jamil Hossain, has been hiding for quiet long time after his conviction in the arm case. During his hiding, he was found involved in several criminal activities.



PLUCKING TEA-LEAVES: The women labourers are seen collecting tea-leaves at a garden in Srimongal, Bangladesh — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Poverty keeps 40pc pry students out of school

PATUAKHIALI, Apr 19: Of the total 3,77,768 children in eleven thanas of Patuakhali and Barguna districts about 40 per cent are being deprived of primary education due to abject poverty, reports UNB.

According to a statistics, there are 2,43,764 children eligible for attending primary schools in six thanas of Patuakhali district. Of them, 1,46,516 are studying in 572 government primary schools and 41,834 in the non-government primary schools and the rest are out of school.

Officials said at least 40 per cent children are not in a position to attend the school or continue their studies due to shocking poverty.

Of the total 1,03,646 children, about 30,000 in five thanas of Barguna district are deprived of primary education due to poverty.

It is learnt that the district education officers do not, however, maintain any thana-wise statistics of the school

deprived children. Meanwhile, according to an official source, a total of 133 posts of primary teachers are lying vacant in the 11 thanas of both the districts.

Local people urged the concerned authority to fill up the vacant posts immediately and take proper steps so that the poor children could attend the schools in order to make the universal primary education programme in the rural areas of success.

Another report from Majid-dec Court adds: Education in Noakhali district is being hampered badly due to shortage of teachers, reports UNB.

A total of 41 posts of teachers out of 91 have been lying vacant in Noakhali Government University College and Noakhali government Mahila College since long.

Sources said, there are 67 posts of teachers in Noakhali University College for degree,

intermediate and honours classes.

Three posts of Professors of honours classes have been lying vacant since its beginning. Four posts of Associate Professors out of 14, and 21 posts of Lecturers out of 32 are lying vacant since long.

There are 24 posts of teachers in Noakhali Government Mohila College for seven subjects. Out of five posts of Professors, three posts are lying vacant and there are only 4 Lecturers out of 12 and no librarian and physical instructor in the college.

Due to teachers' shortage classes in these two colleges are being held irregularly. Moreover, many classes remained suspended adversely affecting the students.

The guardians and students have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps for the smooth functioning of the colleges.

Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 19: Midnight fire incident on April 11, gutted valuables worth about Taka 35 lakh including 10 houses, more than 100 cattleheads and goats and foodstuffs in village Salapur under Kazipur thana.

Fire originated from the kitchen of one Abdul Sheikh and soon spread over all the houses which were burnt into ashes. Twenty persons including seven children and eight women were admitted to Kazipur hospital with burn injury. The affected families are now living under open sky. No relief operation in the area as yet.

Annual sports held

Annual sports of Sirajganj Bazar Railway Colony High School was held on April 11 last at the school premises with ADC (Rev.) and Chairman of the school committee S M Zaburul Islam in the chair.

Mirza Muraduzzaman MP of Sirajganj — 2 constituency distributed prizes among the winners. Abdus Sobhan, Headmaster of the school thanked all present for every co-operation.

Smuggled goods recovered

Sirajganj district Anti-smuggling Task Force led by Magistrate Abdul Malek in a sudden raid on April 11, recovered smuggled playing cards, sugar and sarces from the Chapainawabganj-Dhaka mail train at the Sirajganj Bazar Railway Station.

109 packets of playing cards, 15 kilograms of sugar and three sarces were recovered in the raid.

A case has been lodged with the railway police in this connection.

Khas land distributed

SM Zahurul Islam, ADC (Rev) and Imdadul Haq TNO, Raiganj recently distributed the deeds of Khasland among 41 landless families of village Charfardipur and 20 families of ideal village Khamargatt in Raiganj thana respectively.

The plots amounting to 5, 10, 8 and 16 decimals were distributed among the landless families as a part of rehabilitating the destitutes.

Office of Shilpakala Academy ransacked

The district office of Shilpakala Academy was stormed by some agitated youths on April 13 following feud over site-selection of the Baishakhi Mela.

In the past, Baishakhi Mela was held at the Academy premises but this year, due to accommodation problem, the authority selected the site at the Gyanadyini High School premises.

Trawler capsizes with passengers, one missing

PATUAKHIALI, Apr 19: A trawler with about 80 passengers capsized in the mid-stream of Payra river at Pancha Koirala area following a gusty wind on Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the trawler heading towards Barguna from Pancha Koirala was caught in the storm at 9 am.

Most of the passengers, however, swam ashore but an SSC examinee Kalayni Howlader, daughter of Jaideb Howlader and his grand son Sujam (7) were missing.

Son kills father, one crushed under wheels

BORGA, Apr 19: A father was killed by his son at a village in Gabtali thana of he district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Ladu Miah (55) died on the spot when his son Mofazzal Hossain (24) suddenly struck him with a spade at Prothomasset village.

Earlier, Mofazzal, a reportedly mentally patient, hit two other persons, Chan Mia and Jahurul of the same village and injured them.

A case was lodged with the local police in this connection.

Another report said: An unidentified person was crushed under the wheel of a speeding bus at Satmatha crossing in the town Thursday morning.

The driver along with the bus managed to flee the scene. A case was filed with the police in this connection.

Another report from Madaripur adds: A young housewife has been defaced as here husband allegedly threw acid on her face following a feud over dowry money. Police said Salam Dhali

threw acid on the face of this wife Yasmeen when she came out of her residence at dead of night to respond to the call of nature on March 30.

Yasmeen, 2nd daughter of Abdur Rashid Shikder of Amberi in Sadar thana, was admitted to Sadar Hospital in a serious condition.

Old man shot dead in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 19: An old man was killed and a woman injured seriously when miscreants fired on them in their courtyard at village Pookhali in sadar thana of the district early today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Amir Hamza (70) came under the attack while returning home after offering Fajr prayer at a nearby mosque at dawn.

They said a gang of 15 armed miscreants made swoop and fired at least five shots on him.

People urged to take part in nation building activities

MAGURA, Apr 19: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul Ilaque has said the people of Bangladesh are welcoming Bangla new year and celebrating 1400 BS in the hope of a prosperous future which should be materialised by implementing unhindered development activities of the government, reports BSS.

The main objective of the programmes undertaken by the present government is to eliminate poverty as well as improve the condition of the masses," he said.

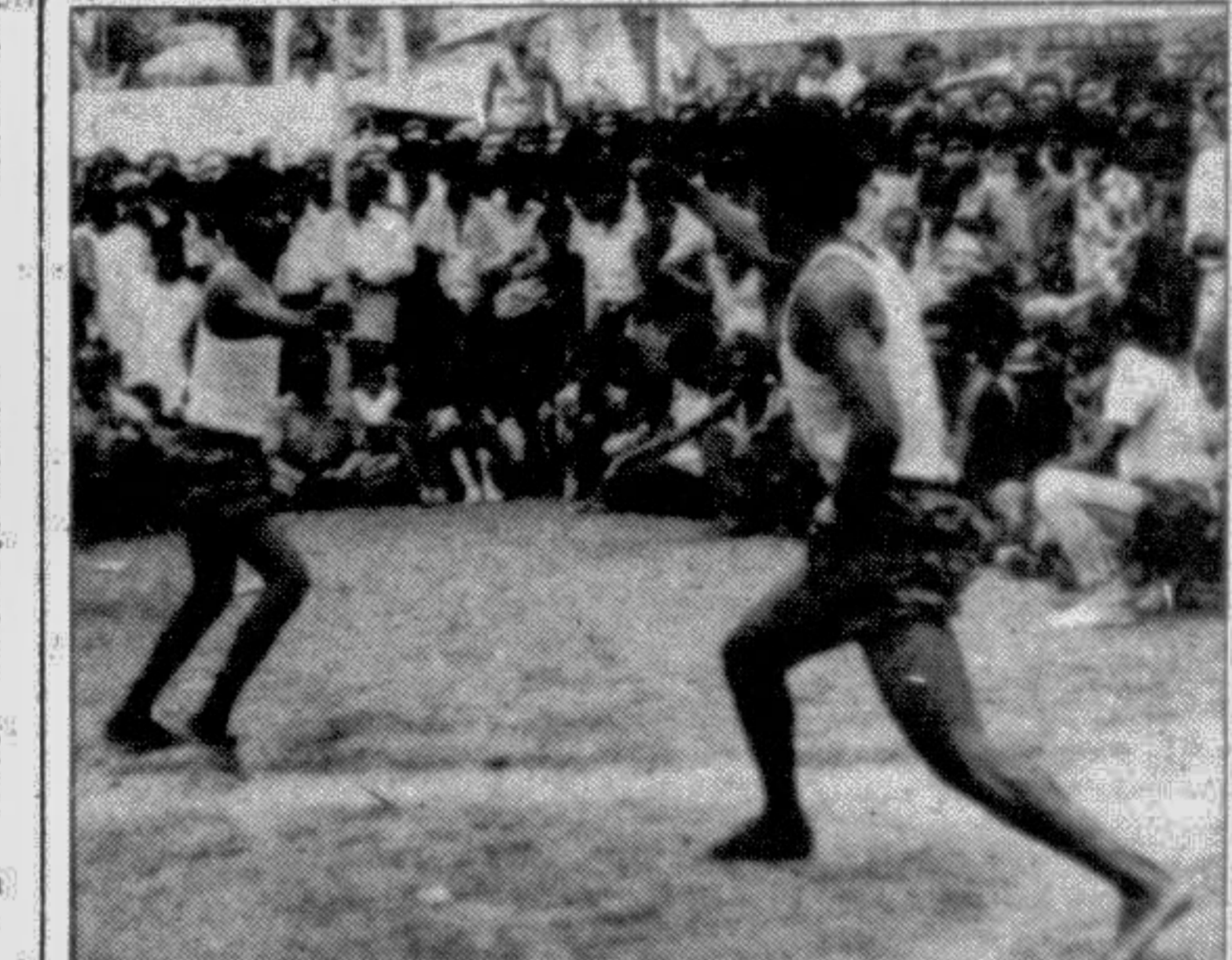
The minister was addressing as chief guest a function held in connection with the holding of Baishakhi Mela and celebrating 1400 BS at Nonami Maidan here. Among others, by function was also addressed by district BNP President Dr MH Siddiqui and Professor Binoy Krishna Biswas.

Speaking about characteristics of Bangladesh culture and practice, M Majid-ul-Haque said, we are proud of our folk festivals as it enkindles our past glory. He further said, our cultural heritage like fair and folk-songs are not only recreational or amusement matter, but these festivals encourage us for going towards national progress.

Termining Bangladesh culture as charming one, the minister called for nourishing our traditional culture and hereditary practice by combating alien-culture and also safeguarding our history from distortion.

He called upon the people to maintain cordiality and involve themselves in nation building activities in order to make the nation happy and prosperous.

Earlier, the minister visited the Baishakhi Mela about 60 stalls of various handicrafts and cottage industry were set up in this three day long mela. The minister also observed the kite flying competition.



JHENIDAH: A view of the traditional lathi khela which gives much recreation to the people. The game was arranged here on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh. — Star photo.

Colourful functions mark Pahela Baishakh celebration

RAJSHAHI, Apr 19: Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year 1400 was celebrated in the divisional city on Wednesday with traditional gaiety and fervour, reports BSS.

Elaborate programmes have been chalked out by different socio-cultural and political organisations to celebrate the day.

The programmes included Baishakhi mela, folk song conference, traditional lathi khela, poetry recitation, blood donation, book fair, drama, discussion, procession and cultural function.

Parthikma Sahitya and Sangskritik Parishad organised a cultural function in the early morning at Rajshahi University College. Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Mnu was present as chief guest at the function.

Rajshahi unit of Shishu academy held a day-long programme at its premises which included poetry recitation, patriotic song competition and book fair. Handwriting competition and cultural function were held at the local Shilpakala Academy. Sangskritik Soumarnay Parishad held a colourful rally to celebrate the day.

Jatyatabadi Samajik and Sangskritik Parishad, Rajshahi and Reliance Club, Rajshahi jointly organised a three-day long folk song conference and competition and Baishakhi Mela at the local Collegiate School. State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain inaugurated the

programme as chief guest. A large number of people from different parts of the city attended the fair.

Sandhanth Club and Leo Club organised blood donation programme at Rajshahi College and Rajshahi Collegiate School respectively. A cultural function was also held at Rajshahi Centre of Engineers' Institute of Bangladesh.

Young housewife beaten to death

COMILLA, Apr 19: A young housewife was beaten to death by her husband and his kin and kiths for spending only Taka 45 to buy Eid-gifts for her children reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, Ramuza Begum wife of Shafulah of Kandi village in Chandna thana spent the amount out of Taka 500 kept earlier with her by her husband.

On the fateful day of March 2, when Shafulah came to learn the matter he became furious and started beating her mercilessly with the help of other relations.

Later she was rushed to the local hospital where the doctors declared her dead. Police sent the body to morgue for autopsy.



RANGPUR: The teacher and the students at a Gono-Shiksha Kendra (Mass Literacy Centre) at Tajhat of the district. The centre is run by local UNESCO club. — Star photo