

District roundup

JHENIDAH

Dacoits loot cash, valuables

Apr 20: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Taka 50,000 from three houses at Sadhuhati Seed Multiplication Farm in Sadar thana of the district at small hours Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said the armed group of 10-12 dacoits decamped with cash and valuables after breaking open the doors of the houses of three farm officials at about 1 am Sunday.

The farm officials whose houses were looted are: Deputy Director Belayet Hossain, Deputy Inspector Yakub Ali and Office Assistant Altaf Hossain.

BUNDEBAN

Police nab three Indian nationals

Apr 20: Three Indian nationals were nabbed from two places in the district for their illegal entry into the country, officials said, reports UNB.

While moving suspiciously near the Alikadam Army base police arrested Ashok Kumar Choudhury (30) on Saturday evening.

Police on Thursday arrested another two Indian nationals from Ruma thana bazar area for moving suspiciously. Indian currency and commodities were also recovered from their possession.

The arrested identified themselves as Zaiping Tang (37) and Lalitok Goal (32) of Mizoram in India. They confessed to the police that they were members of the Mizoram National Liberation Front (MNLF) and followers of Lal Denga, the former leader of Mizoram.

They were sent to district jail najat, officials said.

CHANDPUR

350 people regain eye sight

Apr 20: About 350 people regained their eye sight after successful eye operation through four mobile eye camps, reports BSS.

The eye camps were organised by Chandpur Rotary Club in different areas of the district.

A medical team headed by Dr Anwar Hossain of Chandpur BNSB Eye Hospital operated upon the patients.

About 4,000 eye patients were given free treatment and medicines.

RAJBARI

Bank official, rickshawpuller killed in road mishap

Apr 20: An interdistrict bus trying to overtake another, crushed a rickshaw on the Daulatdia-Khulna highway on Saturday killing the puller and a bank officer, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Abdur Razzak (35), Cash Officer of the Principal Branch of Krishi Bank, Dhaka, hailing from village Uzanchar in Goalanda thana, and Abdus Sattar (45), the rickshaw-puller of West Uzanchar in the same thana.

Police said Jahan Ara (8), the maid-servant of the bank officer, who was with him in the rickshaw, was injured critically in the accident that occurred at noon in front of the Daulatdia Union Council Office.

She was rushed to Goalanda Hospital with head injury, but later shifted to Faridpur Sadar Hospital after her condition had deteriorated.

Razzak, along with his maid-servant, was going to Daulatdia Ghat on way to Dhaka.

Both the bodies were sent to Rajbari morgue for autopsy.

Police seized one of the two buses, 'Satkhira Express', from the spot while its driver managed to flee the scene. The other bus sped away.

MEHERPUR

Folk poet killed by lightning

Apr 20: Hanif Raj (23), a popular folk poet of the village Gaharpur of Pirojpur union under Meherpur Sadar thana was killed by lightning recently, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said while he was returning home after harvesting wheat in his land Hanif Raj was struck by thunderbolt. He died on the spot. A pale of gloom cast over the area at the sad and sudden death of the bard.

HABIGANJ

Problems of water resources dev. focused

Apr 20: Participants at a seminar here on Saturday focused on the problems of water resources development, flood control management, removal of water stagnation, fisheries development and environment protection in the district, reports UNB.

The Ministry of Flood Control and Water Development, and Canadian Development Agency CIDA sponsored the day-long seminar to formulate plans for integrated water development in the district under North-East Regional Water Management Project of FAP-6.

Local MPs, UP chairmen, government officials, professionals and NGO representatives attended the seminar.

The speakers raised some shortcomings of the embankment and sluice gates on the rivers Khowai and Kushiara and Ghungajuri haor project. They put some specific suggestions to overcome the problems, organisers said.

The local leaders stressed the need for massive tree plantation, safe-sanctuary for fish, completing remaining works of the Khowai embankment and reexcavation of different rivers of the district.

MAGURA

Miscereants kill one

Apr 20: A man was killed and another injured seriously when a group of miscereants attacked them at Sreepur in the district last week, reports UNB.

The victims Halim Miah (40) and Fazal Khan (26) were admitted to the district hospital with critical injuries. Later, Halim was transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed his injuries on April 9.

They were attacked by a group of armed miscereants while returning home after sunset from a local market.

CHITTAGONG

CU welcomes Bengali New Year

Apr 20: The Department of Philosophy of Chittagong University on Sunday held a function at the Arts Gallery to welcome the Bengali New Year 1400, reports BSS.

The function presided over by the Department Chairman Ahmad Jamal Anwar was attended by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Badul Alam as the chief guest and Hayat Hussain as special guest, teachers and students of the other departments also attended the function.

Prof Badul Alam in his speech said, the most important event of the last century was rise of nationalism and shaking off colonialism. That was a century of Asia, Africa and Latin America, he added.

GAZIPUR

Discussion meet held

Apr 20: A discussion meeting organised by Gabinda Academy was held at Bashan Union Parishad office here recently, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Prof Anjad Hossain, Editor of the weekly 'Gonokul'. Engineer Golam Nabi, Advocate Abul Dewan, Advocate Habibullah S M Mahful Hasan Hannan, President, Sreepur Press Club among others discussed various aspects of the life and works of Shabbir Kabir Gobinda Chandran Das.

NETRAKONA

Night school for destitute children opens

Apr 20: 'Naiasha Shishu Niketan', a night school for the destitute children was inaugurated recently at Netrakona police line compound, reports BSS.

Netrakona Police Super Anwar Hossain Khan inaugurated the school at a function. Police Welfare Fund will finance the school.

About 100 students have been provided with books, uniforms and medicare facilities free of cost.

Another report adds: The oath taking ceremony of newly elected chairman and commissioners of Netrakona pourashava was held at the pourashava's conference room here recently.

Deputy Commissioner Netrakona Dewan Afseruddin administered the oath. District level officer, political leaders, and local elites attended the function.



MYMENSINGH: A colourful procession was brought out at the town on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh under the joint auspices of district administration and combined cultural organisations.

-- Star photo

25000 malnourished children suffering from diseases

DINAJPUR, Apr 20: Various diseases have affected over 25,000 children in rural and urban areas of 13 thanas of the district due to malnutrition, reports UNB.

Doctors said the children have been attacked with dysentery, diphtheria, jaundice, tetanus polio, skin diseases, whooping cough and pneumonia.

The poor children, between the age group of one month to twelve months, have been suffering from vitamin deficiency and proper treatment.

It is learnt that most of the guardians of the affected children are day-labourers, landless and unemployed farmers.

Local people alleged that preventive measures and supply of necessary medicines are inadequate in different thana health complexes and Sadar Hospital to combat the diseases.

Child specialists are hardly available in the district and thana hospitals. This resulted in deaths of many children without proper diagnosis and treatment, local elite said.

Ignorant and illiterate poverty-stricken parents can not provide nutritious food to their kids while the children are deprived of breast milk as mothers do not get balanced diet. As a result, both children and mothers fell prey to various diseases.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps for providing nutritious food among the poor children and appoint child specialists in different hospitals.

199 people died in incidents last yr

Another reports says: At least 199 people died in separate incidents in Thakurgoan district in the last year, according to a report received here Saturday.

Women oppression, dowry, rape, family feud and financial insolvency are learned to be the main causes of these deaths, police sources said.

Of the total deaths, 168 people, allegedly committed suicide — of them, 85 by hanging and 83 by taking poison. Another 27 people died in different road accidents and the rest 4 were electrocuted.

In 1991 a total of 175 people died of unnatural deaths in Thakurgoan district, the sources added.

Women were the main victims of these unnatural deaths. Several cases were filed with the police.

Child labourers on rise

Our Correspondent adds: Child labourers are on increase in the district of Dinajpur day

Pahela Baishakh celebrated in Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent
BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 20: Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla Year 1400 was celebrated all over the district amid great enthusiasm and traditional festivity.

Musical soirees, discussion meetings, village melas, colourful rallies, lathi khela were organised on the occasion. District 1400 Year Organising Committee drew up a weeklong Baishakh Mela on the occasion at industrial school ground of the town.

Minister of State for Shipping Harun-ur-Rashid inaugurated the fair as chief guest while Deputy Commissioner Abdul Matin attended as special guest. Poet Zafidul Hussain presided over the function.

The function was addressed among others by Ahmed-Al-Mamun, Dr Humayan Faruque, Advocate Akser M Chowdhury.

Eve-teasers active in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Apr 20: Eve-teasing has been going on unabated in different parts of Kurigram town for a long time much to concern of guardians.

It is alleged that some ward youngsters daily assemble at certain points of roads and hurl abusive words against school and college going girls. These youngsters sometimes go one step further and pull clothings and hairs of girls to irritate them.

Some guardians complained to this correspondent that uninterrupted activities of the eve-teasers have vitiated social atmosphere here, affecting the dignity and honour of their daughters.

It is gathered that eve-teasers are very active on the roads stretching from Ghospara to Women College and from Kurigram Rly Station to Govt Girls High School.

It is further gathered that eve-teasers belong to well-to-do section of society and have strong backing to carry on their heinous activities.

Lalmohirhat Press Club executives

LALMOHIRHAT, Apr 20: An 11-member new executive committee of the district press club was formed in a biennial general meeting on Monday, reports UNB.

The officer-bearers of the committee are: President Gokul Ray (Daily Sangbad), Vice President Syed Ali Hossain (Dainik Bangla), General Secretary Sultan Ahmed (Weekly Janajani), Assistant General Secretary Mukul Mahmud (UNB), Finance Secretary Golam Mustafa (Dainik Dinkal), Office Secretary Belal Hossain (Al-Amin).

The elected members are: Obaidul Haque (Ittefaq), Ayub Ali Basunia (Anghlab), Suman Narayan (Banglar Bani), Mayezul Islam (Times) Santosh Kumar Lalabuj.

Gokul Ray has been re-elected and holding the post since its establishment in 1981.

Another report adds: The newly posted Deputy Commissioner of the district Kazi Farid Ahmed met with the local journalists on Tuesday.

The new DC exchanged views and opinions with the journalists and assured to help solve their outstanding problems.

Gokul Ray thanked the DC on behalf of the local journalists.

Govt urged to raise Farakka issue at UN

PABNA, Apr 20: Leaders of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Sunday called for raising the Farakka issue at the United Nations to bring about a solution to the longstanding problem of sharing of Ganges water, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting held on the dried sandy bed under the Hardinge bridge, the leaders warned that they will go for a greater movement if the present government fail to solve the Farakka problem.

NDA leader Col (Retd) Abdur Rashid, Anwar Zahid, Maj (Retd) Bazul Huda, Shahrar Rashid Khan, Mofjur Rahman, AFM Solaiman and Ataul Haq Khan spoke at the meeting organised by the district unit of NDA. It was chaired by district convenor Saifur Islam Manna Sardar.

Col (Retd) Abdur Rashid said vast areas in ten northern districts become deserts and millions of people faced scarcity of water due to Farakka crisis.

"One of the country's largest irrigation projects, the Ganga-Kapatakha, has been closed since March 3 and about 3 lakh acres of land went out of irrigation facilities due to unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water by India", he alleged.

Rashid said North Bengal, Paper Mills was also facing closure due to water scarcity. The Farakka barrage has caused adverse effect on the environment, he added.

Anwar Zahid said Delhi wants to see Bangladesh as a subservient state by creating the Farakka problem. "We are getting only 9,000 cusecs of water against the agreement of nearly 40,000 cusecs", he pointed out accusing the Awami League government of 1974 of creating the crisis.

The meeting followed by a procession.

NDA will hold a rally on May 16 at the frontier village of Kansat in Chapainabaganj district.

People urged to ensure violence-free society

SYLHET, Apr 20: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has called upon the people to ensure a peaceful social environment free from discord and violence to reduce enmity and increase compassion for each other for achieving prosperity and development, reports BSS.

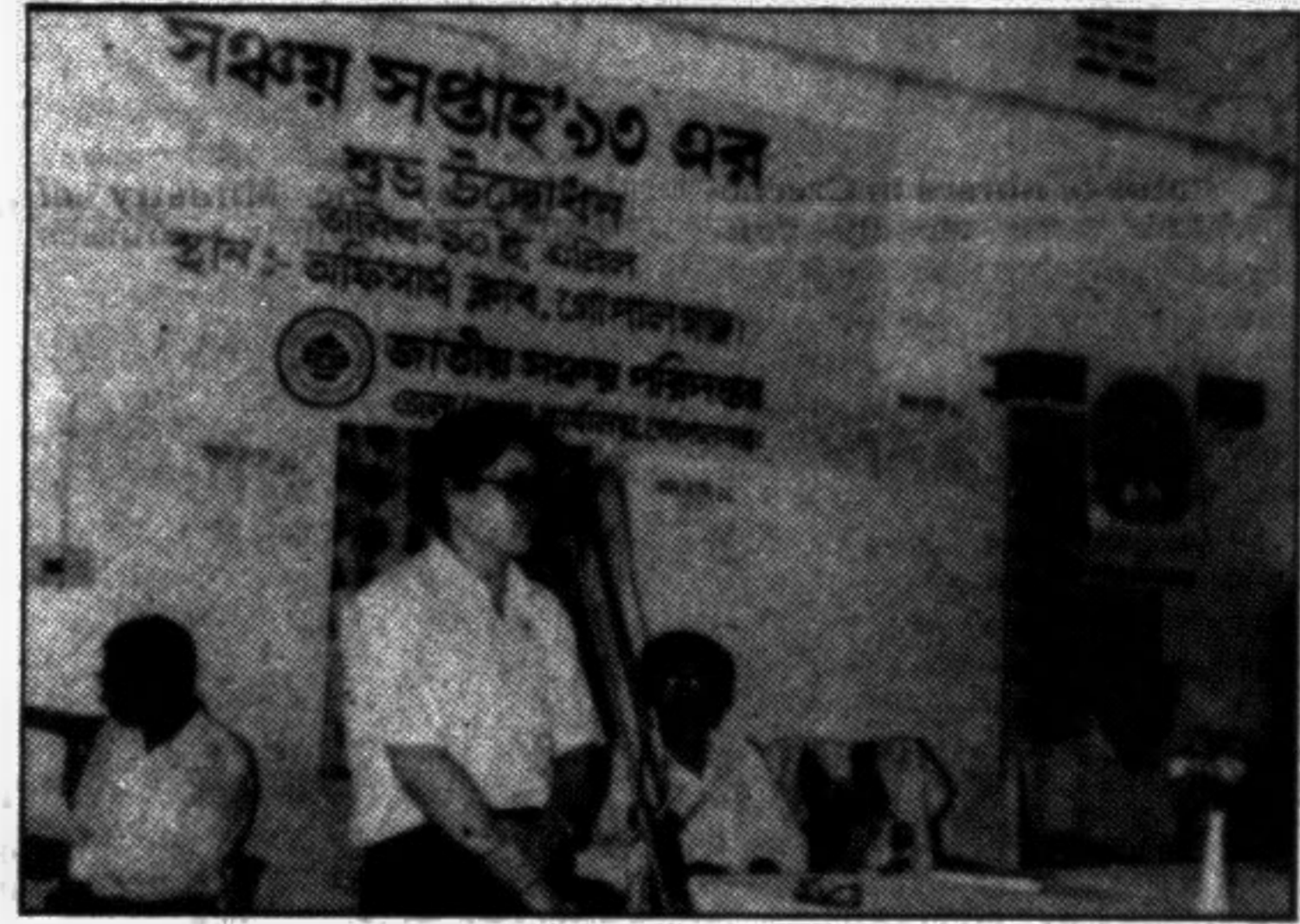
"This should be our firm pledge at the start of the last year of Bangla 14th century", he said while addressing the students of Sylhet Government Girls' College at a function organised in connection with foundation laying ceremony of academic bhavan of the college on Wednesday.

The Finance Minister said that the BNP Government was committed to development and expansion of facilities for women's education in the country. The government is convinced that through growth

of women, education, overall development of the country will be promoted, he said.

Recalling that Sylhet Women's College was nationalised in late seventies during the rule of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, he said that there were not much progress in the eighties in the field of women's education as we went through a decade of oppression during autocrat Ershad's rule.

The BNP government is again in power to promote education, especially primary and girls' education, and that is why maximum allocation is being made in the budget for the education sector. He assured the students that all their problems including the infrastructural ones will be looked into and solved.



GOPALGANJ: Saidur Rahman ADC (Gen) speaking at an inaugural function of National Savings Week '93 held at local officers club recently.

-- Star photo

Two bank staff, 3 traders held for embezzlement of bank money

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 20: Two bank officials and three businessmen were arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau for embezzlement of bank money worth Taka several crore from Shafiq Khan Road Branch of Rupali Bank at Narayanganj, reports BSS.

According to a press release, issued by Anti-Corruption Bureau here yesterday, the arrested persons are: Alauddin Ahmed and Iskandar Hayat, former branch manager and advance officer respectively of Rupali Bank, Shaistakhan Road Branch, Narayanganj, and businessmen Saiful Alam, Jane Alam and KM Anjad Hossain.

The press release said that Alauddin Ahmed and Himmatpur Rahman Khan, Assistant General Manager of the bank in collusion with the higher

bank authorities as well as owners of twentyfive business establishments of Narayanganj had embezzled about Taka four crore and eighty lakh. A case has been filed with Narayanganj thana in this connection.

Alauddin Ahmed was learnt to have advanced loan worth crores of takas to the businessmen of fertilizer, sugar and yarn as commodity credit without the approval of the higher authorities. But no goods were found in the godowns against the bank money.

Similarly Himmatpur Rahman Khan had advanced commodity credit to 69 businessmen from the said branch of the bank illegally.

The arrested persons have been sent to thana najat.

Vigorous investigation is underway.

242 posts of pry school teachers lying vacant

MADARIPUR, Apr 20: At least 242 posts of primary school teachers in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts have been lying vacant for a long time hampering education of children.

According to the official sources, 16 posts have been lying vacant in Sadar thana, 11 in Kalkini, 3 in Shibchar and 11 in Rajoir thanas of Madaripur district while 7 posts have been lying vacant in Sadar, 21 in Zanzira, 29 in Gohairhat, 55 in Bhedarganj and 51 in Naria thana of Shariatpur district.

The local people alleged that the most of the teachers

are not sincere to their profession.

Another report adds: Adulteration of foodstuffs is posing a threat of the health of people in the district.

The shopkeepers, grocers and wholesalers who deal in milk, ghee, oil, rice, wheat, flower, sugar, tea, butter and turmeric power are adulterating the commodities freely.

Pure mustard and coconut oil are not available in the market. The pourashava authorities and the health department are indifferent of their respective duties to check adulteration.



RANGPUR: Mirza Rokibul Huda, DIG of Police, Rajshahi Range is seen speaking at the gathering of the police constables at the auditorium of Rangpur Police Training Institute recently.

-- Star photo