

National

Nor'wester kills two in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 29 : Two persons were killed and 30 others were injured at village Bhitrikhel Gobrjan under Jaintapur thana as a severe nor'wester lashed the area Sunday afternoon. The deceased are, Mayarunnessa, 25, wife of Nurul Islam, and Sharbat Ali, 60.

About one hundred dwelling houses were razed to the ground by the storm accompanied by hailstorms which also caused damages to the standing crops on thousands of acres of land in the area, informed an official source.

About four hundred villagers have now been passing their days under the open sky since Sunday afternoon.

Some government officials visited the affected villages.

Hundreds affected by diarrhoea, cholera

PATUAHALI, Mar 29 : Diarrhoea and cholera that broke out in an alarming proportion have been spreading fast in Barguna, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur districts, reports UNB.

According to local people, the affected thanas are Amtali, Betagi, Patharghata, Bamma and sadar of Barguna; Indurkani, Mathbaria, Kaukhali and Nazirpur of Pirojpur; Bauphal, Dasmna, Golachipa, Kalapara, Mirzagong and sadar of Patuakhali.

Four shishu paribars constructed

BARISAL, Mar 29 : Public Works Department (PWD) of Barisal circle has constructed four shishu paribars at four different district headquarters at a cost of Taka 3,99,80,000 during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total, Taka 89,17 lakh was spent for the construction of the Shariatpur Shishu Paribar, Taka 89,17 lakh for Barisal Shishu Paribar, Taka 1,10,73,000 for Bhola Shishu Paribar and Taka 1,10,73,000 for Patuakhali Shishu Paribar.

Besides, PWD has been constructing eight collectorate buildings at eight district headquarters under the circle.

According to the source, six collectorate buildings have already been completed and the work on other projects has been progressing.

The projects are located at Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Barguna, Bhola, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj.

Fugitive, wanted for murder arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 29 : Police arrested a fugitive, wanted for the last three years, from Hossainpur in the town Thursday, reports UNB.

The fugitive, identified as Abul Hossain, 22, son of Abdul Karim of Saturia village in Manikganj district, was sentenced to life term imprisonment three years ago for murdering Rekha, a student of Saturia school, in 1985.

Manikganj District Judge awarded him life term in 1990.

Abul Hossain, impersonating himself as Shariful Islam was living at Hossainpur when police arrested him.

Police said Abul Hossain obtained degree certificate last year from Sirajganj Government College.

3 killed, 50 hurt in road accident

SAVAR, Mar 29 : Three people were killed and 50 others injured, 13 seriously, when two passenger buses collided Thursday morning on Dhaka-Aricha highway near the cantonment, says UNB.

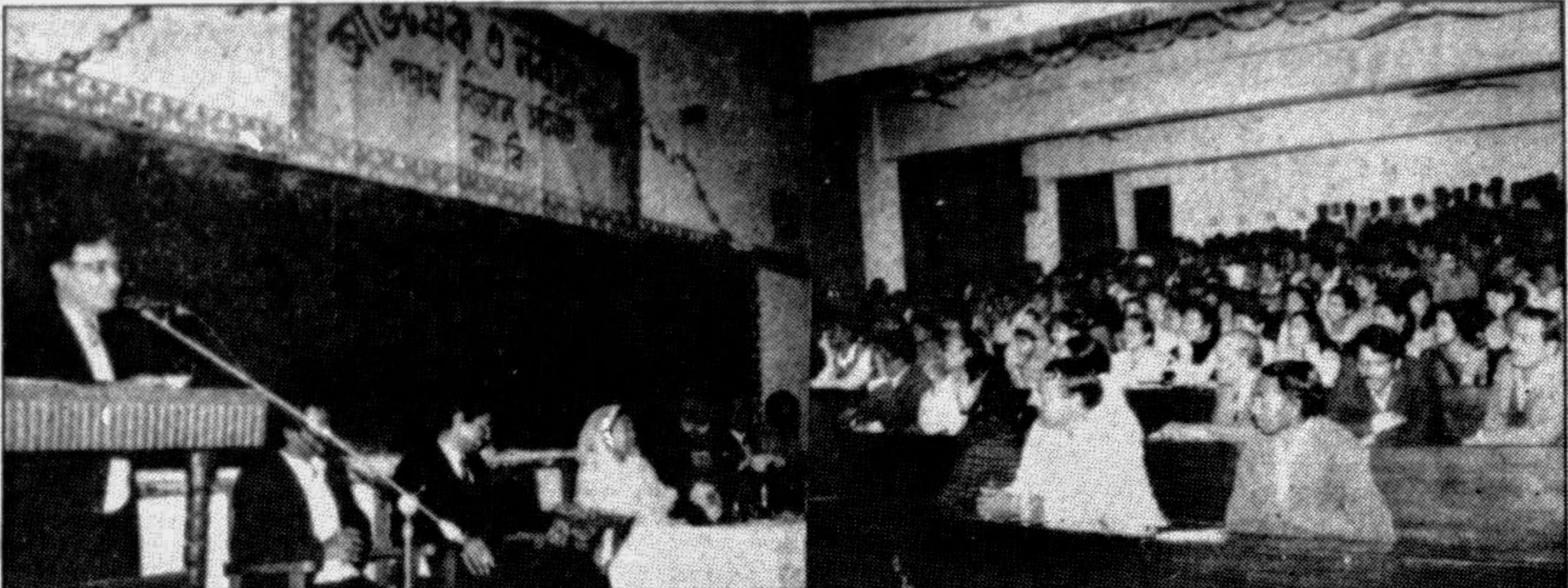
All the three died on the spot. Two of them were identified as Razia, 12, and Jahangir, 20, while the other — a young man of about 20 — could not be immediately identified.

Of the 50 injured, 32 were admitted to the Combined Military Hospital at Nabinagar and 18 admitted to Savar thana hospital.

Police said, a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Aricha, trying to save a rickshaw van, collided head-on with another bus coming from the opposite direction at about 11 am.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed with Savar thana.



RAJSHAH : Prof M Anisur Rahman, VC of Rajshahi University speaking at the freshers' reception of the Physics Department held here recently.

— Star photo

Drought situation prevailing in Chandpur, farming hampered

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Mar 29 : The drought situation has aggravated in all the seven thanas of the district as hot spell is continuing.

Most of the rivers, canals, ponds and other water bodies have dried up and underground water level has registered a fall.

The sowing of ahs and jute seeds has not yet been possible due to continued drought.

Standing robi crops on a vast area have completely been damaged due to drought. In fact there is no work in the agricultural fields.

As a result, the prices of essential commodities have gone up. Due to drought, people of the area have started selling their land, cattle and other belongings to meet the regular expenses.

Another report says : Chandpur Fisheries Research Institute has started cultivation of 'Thai pangas'.

Thai pangas is generally

produced in rivers. Now it can be cultivated in ponds and canals in rural areas.

After a long research, the Fisheries Institute has become successful in cultivation of the fish fry in ponds at a large scale.

It is reported, some five hundred fry of pangas were brought here from Thailand in 1990.

They were reared and cultured in the ponds of Chandpur Fishery Institute for three years.

The growth of fish fry was found to be very rapid and these attained maturity within three years of rearing. The researcher evolved 'Induced Breeding Technique'.

Through this technique, they can produce four lakh fish fry annually. They have distributed these fish fry among the fishermen for cultivation in the rural areas.

The fishermen have also

become successful in cultivating these pangas in ponds. This is a remarkable achievement in the fish research in Bangladesh. The scientific name of this pangas fish is 'Pangasius Sutchi'.

Thai pangas can be of 10 to 16 kg in weight. While the local pangas can not be cultivated in ponds, the Thai ones can be cultivated in ditches, haors, beels and jheels.

It is commercially viable and technically feasible in our country. This new breed of pangas is growing rapidly in different ponds of Chandpur and can easily be cultivated in adverse situation. It can be easily cultivated along with other species of fish as it does not hunt any other fish.

Chandpur Fisheries Research Institute has undertaken a scheme to cultivate Thai pangas in large quantity from this year.

Elephantiasis disease attacks 1.5 lakh people in N-dists

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 29 : About 1.5 lakh people throughout northern districts have been affected by elephantiasis disease, according to sources.

The disease attacks its victims' limbs paralysing the total portion of the muscles. The disease is first detected as a small tumour in the affected area. As time passes, the disease spreads swelling the entire limb which appears more or less as an elephant's foot.

The facilities for detection and treatment of the disease in the region are very meagre. The number of elephantiasis patients is increasing day by day. Mosquitoes spread the disease, it is learnt.

Doctors said that it is possible to get rid of the disease only by taking 300 milligram of 'Feline' medicine once in a month.

TB patients on rise

About three lakh people are

Mustard seeds output target fails

Production of mustard seeds in 16 northern districts has decreased due to floods, rains, drought, and financial crisis of the farmers.

According to Agriculture

Extensions Department source the target of mustard seeds production in this region could not be achieved in the last two consecutive years due to same reasons.

The source further added, 10 to 15 kilograms of mustard seeds were produced per bigha during last season.

It is further learnt that the number of TB patients is increasing considerably. Lack of effective measures is learnt to have caused deterioration in the situation.

According to a source, 10 mouzas in three thanas in Kurigram district were badly affected by storm, particularly jute on vast areas was also destroyed.

While visiting some of the affected areas, more than 500 kutchha houses were found razed to the ground.

The domestic animals become restless with the sharp stinging of mosquitoes throughout the whole night.

Mentionable that a section of people taking advantage of the situation enhanced the prices of mosquito coils, Aerosol and Finish which are beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people.

Meanwhile, many people have been attacked by malaria due to mosquito bite.

Miscreants break open 11 rooms of DC, take cash money, documents

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Mar 29 : Miscreants took away Taka 1,740 cash and other valuable documents from the office of the DC in the early hours of Sunday by breaking open the door and almiras.

The miscreants opened 11 rooms of the office and ransacked those. They broke open the rooms of DC, ADC, NDC and DPO.

The DC, meanwhile, has ordered for thorough investigation into the matter and trace out the lost documents.

Four persons, including three night guards were taken into custody for interrogation by police.

Bridal party member killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 29 : A young man was killed in a road mishap near the Shahjalal Uposhat at Sylhet town Saturday noon. Three others were also injured seriously.

The accident took place when a micro bus (Sylhet 2A-3939) turned turtle as the driver lost control of the vehicle.

Jahangir Alam (18) of village Baishtila of sadar thana died on the spot while three others sustained serious injuries. The injured persons have been admitted to the Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital.

The vehicle was carrying some members of a bridal party from Golaganj thana to Sylhet town.

Mosquito menace makes life miserable

According to local people, aerial and ground spray of DDT may ease the situation.

They urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to combat the mosquito menace.

Another report says: A man was killed and four others were injured in a clash between two rival groups over holding of football match at Pakpara in Sadar thana, police said in Sylhet.

The situation is unbearable in rural areas where the poor men sleep without mosquito nets. They cannot even afford to buy mosquito coils due to poverty.

The domestic animals become restless with the sharp stinging of mosquitoes throughout the whole night.

Two of the injured were rushed to the Sadar hospital while others were released after first aid. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the police.

Another message adds: Police recovered 505 bottles of smuggled Indian phenisidyl syrup from Jalsuka village in Ashuganj thana on March 20.

Foundation of Tk 21cr 'Sheola' bridge over Kushiara laid

SYLHET, Mar 29 : Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman today laid the foundation stone of the proposed 'Sheola' bridge over the river Kushiara to connect Biani Bazar with the district town in fulfillment of the commitment of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

The construction work is expected to be completed by next December. Taka 8 million has been sanctioned to expand accommodation facilities to each educational institutions.

The bridge project included construction of nine kilometre long approach road on both the sides of the bridge. When completed, the bridge will bring a revolutionary improvement in the road communication network of the economically potential Sylhet district. More than five lakh people of Biani Bazar thana and the adjoining areas would be directly benefited by it.

Addressing a big public meeting on the occasion at Biani Bazar the finance minister said that the government was spending more than Taka 11,97,92,800 through selling different sanchaya patras and savings deposits in the district till February 28 in this fiscal year.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah al-Noman, Mrs Fatima Chowdhury MP, Mrs Khaleda Rabbani MP, President of Sylhet District Bar Association Abdul Gafoor and joint convenor of the United Kingdom branch of BNP Kamruddin also spoke on the occasion.

According to an official source, the Bureau fixed the target at Taka 15 crore for the year.

Of the total earning, Taka 1,18,64,200/- came from Pratiraksha Sanchaya Patra, Taka 7,81,57,980/- from five-year sanchaya patra and Taka 2,97,70,500/- from three-year Sanchaya Patra.

District roundup

KUSHTIA

Help solve unemployment problem

Mar 29: Irrigation and Agriculture Minister Maj Gen (Retd) M Majid ul-Huq Sunday emphasised the need for undertaking programmes to create self-employment opportunities and implement those for solving the growing unemployment problem, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a waz mahfil at Nayagaon madrasa and orphanage premises at Brahminchar.

The shipping minister said the present government has given top priority to the spread of education. The highest allocation of the national budget has been given to the education sector, he said.

He urged the teachers and students to extend their all-out co-operation for the successful implementation of the government's programmes.

SIRAJGANJ

2 killed, 6 injured in road mishap

Mar 29: Two people were killed and six injured when a truck rammed into two roadside shops at Chandaikona Bazar in Rayganj thana Sunday, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Anisur Rahman, 33, an employee of BRAC, and Abdur Rahman, 28.

Of the injured, five were sent to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital while the other, Mostafizur Rahman, 24, to Sirajganj General Hospital in critical condition.

DINAJPUR

Old women roasted alive, 46 houses gutted

Mar 29: An old woman was roasted alive and 46 houses were gutted in a devastating fire at Anura Aluay village in Biror thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Marjina, 50.

Witnesses said, the fire originated from the house of Marjina and soon engulfed the adjacent areas. At least 15 cows and goats were also burnt alive rendering 18 families destitute. The loss of the property was estimated at about Taka eight lakh.

Later local fire brigade men came to the spot and after four hours of frantic efforts brought the fire under control.

No relief materials have so far been distributed to the affected people who are now residing under the open sky.

Meanwhile, police arrested Azmat Ali, cousin of Ibrahim and his wife Raju for their alleged involvement in the murder.

It was learnt that Ajmat had earlier worked as an operator at the same tube-well, but was discharged on corruption charges.

He was replaced by Ibrahim eight months ago by the project committee.

PATUAHALI

3 activists of Sarbhabara Party held

Mar 29: Villagers caught red handed three alleged activists of the outlawed Sarbhabara Party at Adabaria union in Bauphal thana of the district on Sunday, police said on Friday, reports UNB.

They are: Humayun Kabir (25), Hafizur Rahman (20) and Anisur Rahman (18).

On suspicion, the villagers challenged the outlawed activists while they were roaming in the area and held them as they failed to give any satisfactory reply.

The angry people gauged one eye of Humayun Kabir on the spot. All of them were handed over to the local police.

MANIKGANJ

Nor'wester damages 100 houses