

Four hacked to death by outlawed party activists

JHENIDAH, Mar 30: Four people, including two brothers, were hacked to death allegedly by members of Purba Bangla Communist Party in three frontier villages here early Monday, reports UNB.

Police said, the two brothers, Aminul Islam Alias Matin 30, and Mohon 32, sons of Mithu Master, were beheaded at their house at Kutubpur village shortly before dawn.

The outlaws slit the throat of Abdur Rahman 30, son of Khokai Biswas and Surat Ali 26, son of Sukur Ali at their houses at Tiyorvilla and Tahukora villages in Alamdanga thana.

Police suspected that the armed members of Purba Bangla Communist Party killed the four to take revenge of last month's killing of their two top leaders.

The miscreants numbering more than 12 also injured three women in Badarganj, another frontier village of the district. Amena Khatun 60, Nilufar 15, and another woman whose identity could not be known were beaten up severely and admitted to Jhenidah sadar hospital.

The miscreants also assaulted some seven people in Laxmipur and Dakbangla villages.

Separate cases were filed with the local police in this connection.

A happy ending!

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 30: At last they got social recognition to live happy conjugal life after adventurous journey from their houses, says UNB.

Some 17 teenage girls left homes from four villages at Kaliaharipur union in sadar thana Monday to live with their lovers.

Of the girls, five are from Sathiamtali, three from Dighalkandi, three from Charbanbaria and six from Pikepara villages.

Villagers said the guardians became concerned after the girls went out of their houses in the morning and demanded trial of the youths who lured the girls to the local UP Chairman.

The Chairman and other village headmen met with the guardians of both the youths and girls and solved the matter by arranging their marriages.

The marriages were solemnised with mohranas worth Taka 25,000 each and without any dowry on the same night.

Most of the girls are between 15 and 18 years of age.

When contacted, the UP Chairman, Abdul Kader of Kaliaharipur confirmed the report.

Tk 2.4 crore sanctioned for development of schools

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 30: Facilities Department under Ministry of Education has taken up a programme to construct classrooms of 30 high schools and madrasas in five thanas of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, an amount of Taka 2.40 crore has been sanctioned under the Annual Development Programme for the implementation of the scheme.

The classrooms of 20 boys and five girls high schools and five dakhil madrasas in Shibganj, Nachol, Bholahat, Gomastapur and sadar thanas will be increased to solve the accommodation problems of the students.

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

With the implementation of the programme, a long felt demand of the local people will be met and the students will get better education facilities.

Crops of more areas in Sylhet under water

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Mar 30: On rush of water from the hilly areas from across the border has inundated standing boro crops on more than 25,000 acres of land in four thanas of Sylhet during the last four days.

The thanas are, Companyganj, Gowainghat, Jakiganj and Jaintapur.

Some other rabi crops like wheat, pulses etc were also damaged by the storms that lashed over different areas in the district.

An official source confirmed the inundation of 50 per cent standing crops in the said areas.



Prof R I Chowdhury, VC of Chittagong University speaking at a discussion meeting on the significance of Independence Day held on the varsity campus. — CU photo

Pledge to safeguard independence

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Mar 30: Bangladesh Agricultural University celebrated the 24th Independence and National Day with due respect.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk formally hoisted the National Flag and took salute of a colourful march past at BAU stadium.

Muktijoddha Sangsad, K B High School Boys Scout, Cub Scout, Haide Pakhi, Girls Guide, K B I College, Rover Scout, Dhumketu Club, Sabuj Mela, Kakali Sangha, Nabarun Sangha Night School and security section took part in the march past.

The Vice-Chancellor placed wreaths at the BAU Liberation War Memorial and Central Saheed Minar. Besides, teachers association, students of various socio-cultural organisations observed the day through various programmes.

Kurigram
Our Kurigram Correspondent writes: The Independence and National Day was celebrated throughout Kurigram district in a befitting manner with a fresh vow to establish democracy and a corruption free society.

The day was heralded with 21 gun salute and placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar and at Shaheed Smriti Soudha and hoisting of National Flag.

A ceremonial parade of Scouts, Police, Ansars, VDP members, BNCC and members of children organisations was the main highlight of the day. Special prayers in all mosques.

temples and churches were held for the peace and progress of the country.

A reception was accorded to the members of the shaheed families under the auspices of Zila Muktijoddha Sangsad. A discussion meeting was held at the local town hall. Muhammad Abdul Haque, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram, was present as the chief guest. Several speakers took part in the discussion on the occasion.

Speakers at the meeting stressed the need for building a strong unity among the people to 'ensurere national prosperity.

Comilla

Our Comilla Correspondent says: The 24th National and Independence Day was observed here with much enthusiasm. Different political and socio-cultural organisations observed the day through various programmes.

The day's programme started with 21 gun salute, hoisting of National Flag on all government and private buildings, ceremonial parade by Police, Ansar, VDP, BNCC, Girls Guide at Comilla stadium.

Special prayers in all mosques, temples and churches were offered for the prosperity of the country.

Natore

Our Natore Correspondent adds: People of Natore district celebrated the 24th Independence and National Day with due honour and enthusiasm.

In observance of the day different socio-cultural, political organisations and district administration took up various programmes.

National Flag was formally hoisted at Kanakhali Stadium. A colourful parade and attractive games were also held by students of different educational institutions here and members of Natore Police, BNCC Ansars and VDP.

The district administration had arranged a football match between Natore Pourashava and Natore district administration on the day.

Later in the day, a discussion meeting and cultural function were held at the district council auditorium under the auspices of the district administration.

Asir Uddin, District Commissioner of Natore, was present at the meeting as the chief guest while Chowdhuri Ahsanul Kabir, SP, Natore attended the meeting as special guest. Nazrul Islam, ADM, Natore presided over the meeting.

Among others the meeting was addressed by Siraj Uddin, Principal of Dighapatia M K College, Abul Mannaf, President of Natore Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Ziaul Haq, PTI Super, and Advocate Mohshin-ul-Haq.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent says: The Independence and National Day was observed as everywhere in the country in a befitting manner.

The district and thana administrations took up day long

programme in accordance with the national programme. Different political and socio-cultural organisations including BNP, Awami League, Jatiyo Party, Sangbadik Samity, Muktijoddha Sangsad, Ghatk Dal, Nirmul, Committee and 10-party alliance also observed the day.

BSS adds: Speakers at an Independence Day discussion here Monday called for strengthening of nationalist forces to consolidate national independence and sovereignty.

The discussion held under the auspices of Chattagram Gono Oikya Parishad in Nur Ahmad Road CMUJ auditorium with Barrister Aminul Haq in the chair, was addressed by Barrister Salimul Huq Khan Milky, Dr Muhammad Shah and Dr Abul Kalam Azad of Chittagong University, advocates M A Jabbar Chowdhury Serajul Alam, Abu Zafar Chowdhury, journalists Nazir Ahmad, Zahedul Karim Kachi and Kashem Mahmud and Freedom Fighter Shafi Chowdhury.

Speakers said a national unity on the basis of Bangladeshi nationalism was needed at the moment to lead the country towards economic progress. Our hard-earned independence will remain meaningless unless we achieved economic emancipation, they added.

The participants also cautioned the people not to be misled by cheap slogans of any political party, but to stick to nationalist ideal.

BCL-JCD clash in Sirajganj: 16 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 30: At least 16 students of Ullapara Degree College were injured, four seriously, in a clash between the supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and pro-Awami League Chhatra League here today, reports UNB.

Witnesses and police said the clash erupted when the BCL activists attacked the supporters of JCD at Shyamoly in Ullapara thana at about 11 am.

The clash was a sequel to Monday's brawl between JCD supporter Kabiruzzaman and BCL worker Rubel in a college classroom.

Seriously injured Kabiruzzaman, Nazrul Islam, Abdus Salam and Jewel were admitted to Purnimagati Health Complex.

Top priority given to improve communication

TONGIBARI (Munshiganj), Mar 30: Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam said the main objective of production-oriented activities initiated by present government was to improve the standard of life of the common people through building up the economic infrastructure, reports UNB.

The minister while inaugurating 110 feet Nagarkandi bridge said this to a spontaneous gathering of people. He also laid the foundation stone of Rang Meher bridge on Tongibari-Hashail road Tuesday, said an official hand-out.

Shamsul Islam said economic freedom was the main pre-condition to consolidate democracy. Referring to the different development programmes of the government aiming to strengthen the rural economy, he said the present government attached top priority to develop the country-wide communication network, so that it could provide better distribution facilities of resources to remote areas.

The minister urged all concerned to help complete the construction work within the scheduled time.

The Nagarkandi bridge constructed at a cost of Taka 25 lakh would provide better communication facilities to the people of eight unions in Tongibari thana with the capital city.

The minister also inaugurated newly constructed building of Sonarang Pilot High School.

District roundup

MYMENSINGH

Students asked to avoid session jam

Mar 30: The classes of the first year (Hons) students of six faculties of the university began on March 23 through the orientation programme.

Inaugurating the orientation course at the Jainul Abedin auditorium Vice-Chancellor Prof Shah Mohammad Farooq called upon the newcomers to complete their syllabus within the stipulated period for avoiding session jam.

He urged the students to acquire skill in the agricultural field through devoting themselves in the study and research within our limited resources.

Presided over by Prof Rafiqul Haq Bhuiyan the orientation function was also addressed by Convener of Dean Council Dr Md Abdul Hamid, Convener of Provoests Council Dr Md Iqbal Hossain and Prof Motahar Hossain.

Another report adds: The admission test for the first year honours, classes, session 1993-94 under six faculties of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) will be held on April 12, reports UNB.

All formalities have been completed for the admission test and the applicants have been asked to sit for the test on time, says a press release.

Meanwhile, the Science Conference scheduled to be held on April 9-11 at BAU, organised by Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science has been shifted to May 15-17, said another press release.

NETRAKONA

Flash flood, rain damage boro paddy on 1,500 acres

Mar 30: Flash flood caused by last two days' incessant rain and onrush of water from the upstream washed away high-yielding boro paddy on over 1,500 acres of land of two haors of Khallajuri thana of the district, reports BSS.

Reports reaching here Monday from the thana headquarters said that torrential rainfall and the downflows of rain waters from the Meghalaya hill range of neighbouring India submerged low lying areas of the thana damaging paddy and other crops.

Local Water Development Board sources told BSS that the water level in the river Dhanu also registered a sharp rise and was flowing a little below the danger mark.

DINAJPUR

Defamation case filed against police officer

Mar 30: A defamation case was filed with the District Magistrate Court against the Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali thana on Monday, reports UNB.

According to the complaints, Liton, a local correspondent of a national daily was physically assaulted by a gang of smugglers for publishing a news item in the daily in its February 12 issue.

Liton alleged that OC Kotwali police station Golam Mostafa Miah refused to take the case against the attackers.

Advocate Alhaj Abdul Majid, President of Dinajpur Press Club went to the thana on March 15 and had requested the OC to register the case. But he again refused and allegedly insulted him. Finding no other way, he filed the case.

A memorandum was sent to the higher authorities in this connection. General Secretary of District Press Club Mainul Islam along with 50 advocates condemned the incident.

CHITTAGONG

Drive to free city area from mosquito menace

Mar 30: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) will launch a two-month long drive against mosquito menace from April 3, a CCC press release said Tuesday, reports BSS.

The CCC Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury has asked 41 city ward commissioners to supervise the anti-mosquito drive so that the city could be free of the mosquitoes. The mayor has also appealed to city dwellers to clean the premises of their own houses. He also asked the city people to clean abandoned ponds, drains and other breeding places of mosquitoes.

The CCC health department has taken necessary preparations for the purpose, the press release added.

SATKHIRA

Two arrested on charge of raping young woman

Mar 30: Police arrested two people on Saturday from their residences at Itagacha on charge of raping a young woman, says UNB.

The accused were identified as Ershad Ali Khokon, truck driver and helper Solemam Mia.

Police said, the two accused men on March 18 abducted Shiyamoli Rani 30 of Saihati of Kaligonj thana from the Kaliganj bus terminal and repeatedly raped her in a nearby brickfield.

CHANDPUR

30,000 acres of land under IRII-Boro cultivation plan

Mar 30: About 30,000 acres of land have been brought under IRII-Boro cultivation at Matlab Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project during the current season, reports BSS.

As a result, ten lakh maunds of additional crops are expected to be produced within the command area of the project.

The Taka 113 crore Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project is one of the biggest, irrigation projects in the country.

The project is run by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). The project was started in 1987. Besides cultivation of paddy, the project provides facilities, to fish cultivation, poultry, farming etc.

The project area covers 14 unions of Matlab thana under Chandpur district. About four lakh people of the area are being directly benefited by the project.

TANGAIL

One killed, 3 hurt in road accident

Mar 30: One person was allegedly killed and three others, including two women and a child was seriously injured in a road accident at Karatia bus stand on Tangail-Dhaka highway recently, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when a truck hit an autorickshaw standing nearby.

As a result, Badal Chowdhury, a businessman of Karatia, was killed and three others received injuries. The injured persons have been admitted to sadar hospital.

A case has been registered in Tangail thana. Besides, one Amina about twelve years old of village Panch Kahania under sadar thana allegedly committed suicide on Friday night. She allegedly hanged herself with the branch of a tree.

SYLHET

Peptic ulcer patients increasing

Mar 30: Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mohammad Sirajul Haque, Monday said the number of peptic ulcer patients had been growing in the country, reports BSS.

He said 15 per cent people above 15 years of age were suffering from the disease in Bangladesh.

He was addressing as the chief guest at a symposium of peptic ulcer organised by Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society.

The deputy minister said the government's objective of health for all by the 2000 could be successful if we could take effective measures for prevention of the disease.

KUSHLIA

One killed in road accident

Mar 30: One Mizanur Rahman (27) was killed in road accident at Mashan Bazar on Kushtia-Meherpur road in Mirpur thana recently, reports BSS.

As a truck tried to overcome a barricade put up by the dacoits on the road it turned turtle killing Mizanur Rahman on the spot. The dacoits, however, were able to loot the goods.

A case has been registered with the Mirpur thana. In another accident one Beauty Khatun (10) was killed at Jugta village on the outskirts of the town on Kushtia-Bheramara road.

The girl was seriously injured by a minibus. She was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

6000 ponds lying unutilised

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 30: About 6,000 ponds in different parts of the district have been lying unutilised due to lack of proper initiative.

Local people said that about 50 per cent of the ponds in the area have been silted and dried up due to lack of maintenance. A large number of ponds are also covered with water hyacinths hampering fish cultivation.

Experts say, 7,000 metric tons of fish can be produced annually if these ponds were cultivated in proper way.

The authorities should take schemes for re-excavation of the silted ponds and introduce scientific methods of fish cultivation to boost fish production in the district, they added.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to come forward with short term loan for the share holders of the derelict ponds for fish cultivation.

It is felt that arrangement should be made to impart training on pisciculture.

Fodder scarcity

Acute shortage of fodder has been prevailing in six thanas of the district.

Cultivators in these areas normally preserve a year's stock

of straw from the boro, aus and aman harvest. But this year they could not do it because of natural calamities.

Cultivators are unable to feed their domestic animals regularly. Moreover, traditional grazing fields have been turned into agricultural fields.

According to local farmers, green grass for milch cows is rarely available in the rural areas as most of fallow lands have been brought under modern cultivation methods.

The crop pattern has also been changed. Prices of oil cakes and other varieties of fodder have increased. Besides, large number of cattle have fallen prey to various diseases due to constant starvation.

Many cultivators are selling their cattle at nominal prices as they are unable to feed them.

Tubewells out of order

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water is causing serious problems in rural areas of the Kushtia district. The existing number of tubewells in six thanas are quite inadequate to meet the demand of the people.

According to a report, a large number of tubewells are lying

out of order for the last two years causing untold sufferings to the villagers. Innumerable number of tubewells are out of order due to the damage of filter pipes beneath the earth, leakage in the pipe and more tubewells are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Plans for resinking the choked up tubewells were initiated by the concerned authorities but to no avail as yet.

Reliable sources said, adequate fund was needed for resinking and repair works of the tubewells.

UNB adds: Fish production in the district has come to all time low due to rampant catching of fry by current nets by unscrupulous fishermen.

Despite government ban, fishermen are catching fish fry from the rivers, ponds and haors and selling them openly in different local markets under the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

Catching of fish fry below nine inches is strictly prohibited. The fishermen are also catching hlisha fry known as Jaka.

Local people brought the matter to the notice of district administration but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

More major bridges in next three years

CHANDPUR, Mar 30: Communications Minister Oli Ahmad Monday said all the national highways and regional roads and Bhairab, Pakshi and Dhaleswari bridges would be constructed and re-constructed within next three years, reports BSS.

The minister said this at separate public meetings while opening Bijoypur Bridge at Comilla-Chandpur road and laying foundation stone of Hajiganj Bridge at Hajiganj, Chandpur, Sunday. He also laid foundation stone of Shaikhkhali Bridge on Comilla-Chandpur road.

The proposed Hajiganj Bridge on the river Dakatia would cost Taka four crore and ten lakh and will be completed within next two years. Shaikhkhali Bridge will cost Taka one crore and 58 lakh. The bridges will be about 117 metres and 39 metres in length respectively.

The Bijoypur Bridge had cost Taka one crore five lakh and had been completed within 12 months. It is about 33 metres in length.

The proposed Hajiganj Bridge will connect Bholia, Lakshmipur and Noakhali districts with Comilla-Chandpur road and will minimise the distance from these districts to Dhaka by about 60 kilometres.

While addressing separate public meetings at Hajiganj and Shaikhkhali Communications Minister said, the opposition in parliament always talk about the spirit of liberation war. But, he asked them, whether alliance with anti-liberation force, Jamaat and corrupted and ousted autocratic force to disrupt development programmes of an elected government, or to help the government in parliamentary system to attain economic emancipation of the people, is the spirit of liberation war. He urged them to honour the spirit of our great liberation war.

Among others, the meetings were addressed by M A Matin MP, Alam Khan, MP and Begum Rebeza Chowdhury MP, Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways and local BNP leaders also addressed the meeting.

Earlier, the minister visited under-construction Meghna-Gomoti bridge at Daudkandi in Comilla.

Rural people asked to establish dairy farms

KHULNA, Mar 30: Jatiya Sangsad Whip Md Asraf Hossain called upon all particularly the rural people to avail the opportunity created by the government for establishing dairy farms to make the country self-sufficient in milk production, as well as solving unemployment problem, reports UNB.

He was addressing as chief guest at a function arranged in connection with the distribution of incentive grant cheques to the private dairy farmers of Khulna district. The function was held at DC's conference hall Sunday, said an official hand-out.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kazi Reazul Haque the function was also addressed by Divisional Deputy Director of Livestock Dr Md Mokdesur Rahman.

Md Ashraf Hossain formally handed over the incentive grant cheques of Taka 17.50 lakh to 42 private dairy farmers of Khulna district in the function.

It may be mentioned that a few months ago such grant of about Taka 14.60 lakh was distributed among 30 private dairy farmers of the district.

Referring to the people-oriented activities of the government Md Asraf Hossain also said that the government had been endeavouring to attain self-sufficiency in all fields of national life.

Another report says: The number of divorce in the district is gradually increasing day by day causing serious concern among the guardians.

According to Marriage Registration office, the number of registered divorces stood at 1,436 in the district



MAULVIBAZAR: Syed Mohsin Ali, chairman of local pourashava speaking at a reception accorded to the intellectuals of the district held here recently. — Star photo