

National

35,000 mt of wheat expected to be produced in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 1 About 35 thousand metric tons of wheat are expected to be produced in four thanas of Chuadanga district during the current season.

The four thanas of the district are: Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

In the meantime, harvesting of wheat of the current season has begun throughout the district and expected to be completed in another 15 to 20 days.

Of the total 8,000 metric tons of wheat is expected to be produced in Chuadanga thana, 15,000 metric tons in Alamdanga thana, 8,000 metric tons in Damurhuda thana and 4000 metric tons in Jibannagar thana.

During the current season, 18,000 hectares of land were brought under wheat-cultivation in four thanas of Chuadanga district.

Electricity bills worth Tk 100 cr remain unpaid

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Apr 1 Electricity bills amounting to Taka one hundred crore have remained unpaid with different government and non-government organisations in 16 districts of Rajshahi Division.

According to a report of PDB about Taka 65 crore of the bills have remained unpaid with different government buildings and Taka 35 crore bills from non-government organisations in the 16 northern districts for nine years.

The Power Development Board in the meantime has issued notices against 12 thousand non-govt residences.

15 pc people suffer from peptic ulcer

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 1 More than 15 per cent of the people above 15 years of age in Bangladesh have been suffering from peptic ulcer.

It was stated at a seminar arranged by the Bangladesh Gastro-Enterology Society in Sylhet recently.

The speakers at the seminar said, diagnosis of different diseases have become easier with the latest innovations and researches in different fields of medical science.

Treatment of different chronic diseases have also become easier with these innovations throughout the world, they said.

Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Haque said the government was keen to improve the medicare facilities in the country. Important steps had already been taken up in this regard, he added.

He was speaking as chief guest at the seminar which was presided over by professor Mahmud Hassem, General Secretary of the society. Dr Sharad Sri Shah, a specialist in gastro-enterology and liver from India attended the seminar as special guest.

Police fail to rescue kidnapped girls

NARSINGDI, Apr 1 Police failed to rescue the two girls from the hands of their kidnappers after seven days of abduction, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Salina Begum, 20, daughter of Motaleb Mia of village Bagdi Ghorasal in Polash thana was kidnapped on March 22 midnight by a gang of armed miscreants led by Abdul Hossain of neighbouring Ghorasal village.

They beat the inmates of the house including the father of the girl mercilessly and abducted the girl at gun point.

Salina's mother said Abdul Hossain earlier proposed to marry Salina which was turned down.

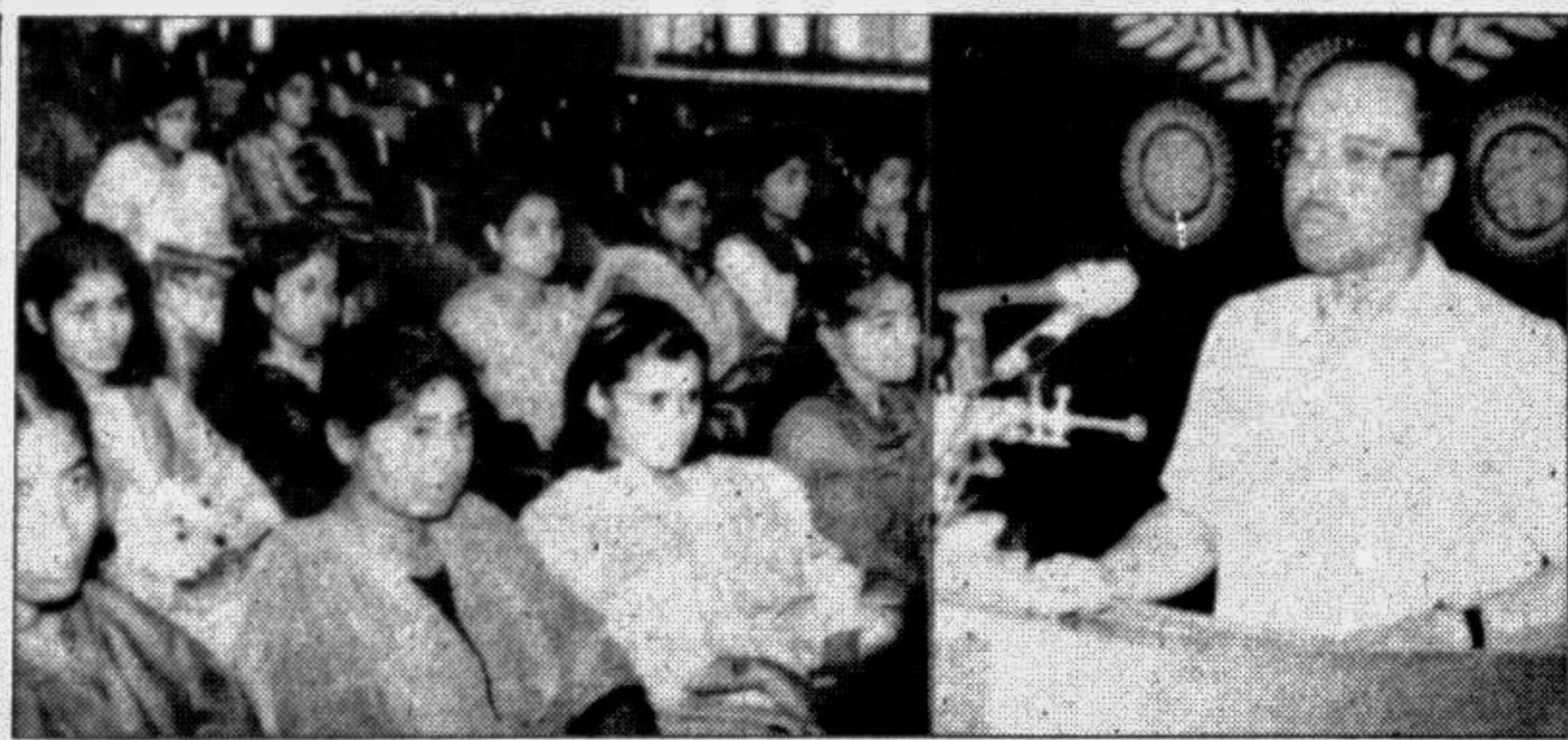
A case was filed with the police.

Another girl Sheuli, 21, a student of BA class of Bhawal Jamalpur College in Kaliganj thana while returning home from the college at noon on March 23 was kidnapped by some miscreants allegedly led by one Biplob of the same college.

Father of the girl, Golam Mostafa, Assistant Production Officer of Bangladesh Jute Mills and a resident of the mills staff quarters said Biplob was angry when his proposal to marry Sheuli was turned down.

He alleged that after repeated requests the police officer of the Polash thana did not agree to register the case.

Meanwhile, the well-wishers and an influential group are spreading the news that the girl was in love with Biplob and she willingly fled away with her lover.



MYMENSINGH: Prof S M Farouk, VC of BAU speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of an orientation programme of the newly admitted students of the varsity held here recently.

— Star photo

Irrigation to three lakh acres of land disrupted

BHERAMARA (Kushtia), Apr 1 All the pumps of Bheramara Pump House under the GK Project became inoperative causing disruption in irrigation facilities to about three lakh acres of land in four districts, says an UNB report.

Production of crops worth about Taka 100 crore will be hampered on those land as the pumps went out of order as a result of depleting groundwater caused by India's Farakka barrage.

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Maj Gen M Majid-ul-Haq (Retd) was informed this during his visit to the pump houses at Bheramara on Sunday.

Addressing a rally near the pump house, the minister said, Bangladesh expects a good neighbourly and friendly behaviour from its neighboring countries.

He said, the government is fully aware of the present situation of the GK Project. It is continuing efforts to realise the country's due share of the Ganges water, he said.

The minister also visited the silted confluence of the Padma and Garai rivers. He directed the officials concerned to take appropriate plans to remove the sand and supply water to Garai river.

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Maj Gen M Majid-ul-Haq expressed dissatisfaction about non-disposable highly condemned steel materials at the pump-house area of Bheramara.

While visiting the GK Project area on Sunday the minister directed the concerned officials to dispose up the steel and send them to Chittagong Steel Mills

BNP accused of harassing political opponents

Apr 1: Local Awami League leader Kamruzzaman Sunday accused the ruling party of harassing political opponents and implicating about a hundred of his party workers in false cases, reports UNB.

Addressing a news conference at Jhenidah press club Sunday Kamruzzaman said police in Shailkupa was acting under instructions of the ruling party local MP in suppressing them. They were not allowed to hold public meetings, he alleged.

Help create mass awareness about prevention of AIDS

KHULNA, Apr 1: Deputy leader of the House and Chairman of National AIDS Committee Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury said AIDS could certainly be prevented by pursuing religious tenets and instructions and upholding moral values, says BSS.

The conscious section of the society can easily keep themselves free from the scourge of this malignant disease, but it is very difficult for the immoral people to remain out of its purview, he pointed out.

Prof Chowdhury was addressing a function here Monday held in connection with the training of the technologists on HIV-antibody testing and opening of AIDS laboratory at Khulna 250-bed hospital, a PID handset said.

Organised by Ministry of Health and WHO, the function was also addressed by Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, Prof Myo Thwe, a representative of WHO, Vice Chairman of National AIDS Committee Hasina Warda Chowdhury and President of

Islam was also present.

Hundreds of bauls and Laloni research workers and artists from home and abroad attended the eight long musical soiree.

Another report says: Mosquito menace in Kushtia poura areas has assumed an alarming proportion causing suffering to the town dwellers and exposing them to serious health hazards.

Local people said adequate and effective measures to eradicate mosquitoes are yet to be taken by the Kushtia Pourashava authorities.

Conventional method of spraying mosquito oil and that also in most irregular way has proved ineffective and consequently breeding of mosquitoes in the town continues unabated.

Silted drains and stagnant pools of water scattered all over the poura areas were yet to be removed by the poura authorities.

Over the years, the size of the Kushtia poura area, as well as its population, have considerably increased but the arrangement for eradicating mosquitoes have been proved quite inadequate.

It may be mentioned that Kushtia Pourashava lacks proper drainage facility and no step has yet been taken in this direction.

Local elite said emergency measures are needed for proper cleaning of the silted drains and ditches and derelict ponds owned by even the private individuals. The owners should be motivated to keep their ponds clear and help making the congenial atmosphere for eradicating mosquito menace.

Addressing a news conference at Jhenidah press club Sunday Kamruzzaman said police in Shailkupa was acting under instructions of the ruling party local MP in suppressing them. They were not allowed to hold public meetings, he alleged.

The JS Whip was speaking at a function held Sunday at the deputy commissioner's conference room in connection with the distribution of government grants to the private dairy farm owners in Khulna.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of Khulna, Kazi Reazul Hoque, the function was also addressed by parliament members Helaluzzaman and Golam Md Siraj an Founder Director of Ntrams Abdul Mannan Sarker, a PID handset said.

Khulna said if the system of technical education in the country could be developed through the coordinated ef-

forts of the government and the private sector, it would be fruitful and effective for rapid uplift. He said, if the manpower was not made efficient, even if unskilled people got opportunity to go abroad they would be sent back. "We have no way but to create skilled and trained manpower," he emphasised.

The Labour Minister called upon all concerned to come forward with an objective of bringing social revolution to make radical change in the system of education which would provide the nation with skilled manpower to meet future needs of the country.

Earlier, the minister went round various sections of the institution and heard the problems the institution was passing through. He assured all possible assistance to remove them.

Tk 10 cr plan to improve power supply network

SHIBCHAR (Madaripur), Apr 1: The government has undertaken a programme at a cost of Taka about 10 crore to improve power supply network in Shariatpur and Madaripur districts, reports UNB.

The programme includes construction of 110 kilometres of distribution lines, installation of 63 transformers of 100 KVA and construction of two substations of 10 MVA.

Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has been implementing the programme which is likely to be completed by December this year.

This was disclosed in a meeting at Shibchar of Madaripur Monday with Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf in the chair.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khannder Mosharrif Hossain was also present at the meeting which was attended by the concerned officials of the PDB.

The meeting informed that the government has already constructed 46 kilometres of distribution lines and installed 25 transformers of 100 KVA costing Taka about four crore under the programme.

Terming electricity as the most essential component of production, the Health Minister

said, it is an urgent need to provide electricity in all the areas of the country to ensure the balanced development.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf stressed the need for making the power sector viable and profitable to achieve the target of development in this sector.

The energy minister said, plan is underway to effectively involve the private initiatives with the government endeavours to cope with the growing demands of electricity in the country.

Dr Mosharrif asked the PDB officials to work hard to achieve the target by reducing the system loss and enhancing revenue collection to make this sector viable.

Earlier, visiting Shibchar health complex, the two ministers were informed that the government has allocated Taka 45 lakh to improve the infrastructural facilities of the complex.

The meeting informed that the government has already constructed 46 kilometres of distribution lines and installed 25 transformers of 100 KVA costing Taka about four crore under the programme.

Both the ministers addressed a public meeting held at Bahadurpur Madrasa premises, which was arranged to celebrate the 59th installation ceremony of Bahadurpur Madrasa. Peer Mohsen Uddin Dudu Miah presided over the meeting.

District roundup

SIRAJGANJ

One roasted alive in fire, goods worth Tk 50,000 gutted

Apr 1: A minor boy was roasted alive in a fire at Moredah village in Ullapara thana midnight Wednesday, says reports UNB.

Police said, a seven year old boy was burned alive in a fire that broke out at the house of Raihan Ali Sardar of the village. Two cattleheads were also destroyed and properties worth about Taka 50,000 gutted in the fire.

Police suspect that one Bacchu Miah allegedly set fire at the house as a sequel to previous enmity.

Police Thursday arrested Basu, brother of the absconding Bacchu Miah, for alleged involvement in the incident.

KHULNA

Shortage of teachers hampers education

Apr 1: Proper education in the government high schools of the district is being hampered seriously due to shortage of teachers, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, 10 posts of headmaster and 23 posts of assistant headmaster and 74 posts of assistant teacher have been lying vacant for a long time. There are 36 government high schools, including 15 girls' schools in the district.

The concerned authorities failed to take any step to fill up the vacant posts. As a result, the academic atmosphere is being hampered greatly.

Guardians sought intervention of the Education Ministry to immediately resolve the crisis.

KUSHTIA

Increasing number of rickshaws creating problem

Apr 1: The increasing number of rickshaws has been causing lot of sufferings to the residents of Kushtia pourashava over the last one year, says UNB.

At least 4500 rickshaws are now plying on the narrow 16 mile pucca roads within 8.07 square miles pourashava area.

The roads, specially in the main commercial areas of the town, remain blocked most of the time by rickshaws causing hindrance to the movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

The people while moving on the main streets have to remain stranded from place to place due to lack of parking place for huge number of rickshaws.

The school-going children are the worst sufferers. Besides, the rickshaws from the nearby unions of the pourashava make entry into the town aggravating the situation, local people said.

On the other hand, a large number of rickshaws, both from Kushtia pourashava and adjacent unions, are reportedly plying in the pourashava without any licence.

The busy commercial town has become a place of rickshaws much to the annoyance and sufferings of the people. Local people complained, urging the authorities to take immediate steps in this regard.

NARSINGDI

Agri fair concludes

Apr 1: A three-day agriculture fair '94, organised by Agriculture Extension Department, was concluded here on Friday, reports UNB.

Held at the sadar parishad premises, the fair was inaugurated by Shamsuddin Ahmed MP on March 23. The Deputy Commissioner of the district and sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer were present on the occasion.

At least 25 stalls were set up by Livestock Department, Farming Complex, Agriculture Equipment Factory, pesticide factory, seeds godown, Fisheries Department, Family Planning, EPI, Health Department, Public Health and Education Departments, Ansar VDP, non-government nurseries and poultry farms.

On the contrary, they provide medicines to the persons who are socially influential.

Some poor farmers alleged that the livestock official take money from them for medicine. Besides, some local veterinary doctors are also busy in private practice.

According to the secretary of the Dairy Farm Owners Association of the district, if the present situation is allowed to prevail further, the farm-owners will have to close their farms despite the incentives of the present government for livestock sector.

JAMALPUR

Tk 2.52 crore development projects underway

Apr 1: Work on some 30 uplift schemes undertaken by the zila parishad is progressing fast, reports UNB.

An amount of Taka 2.52 crore has been sanctioned for the implementation of the schemes.

According to zila parishad, of the schemes, 14 union parishad buildings and two dakh bungalows are being renovated and developed in seven thanas of the district and 14 roads and culverts are being reconstructed to improve rural communication system.

The work is expected to be completed by June next. With the implementation of the schemes the long felt problems of union parishad building infrastructural development will be solved and rural communication network improved to a great extent.

Mentionable that the union parishad buildings, the centre of rural development, have been neglected and plagued with multiple problems since long.

MAULVIBAZAR

Three killed in road mishaps

Apr 1: Three people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in the district in the last week, reports UNB