

Eleven killed in separate incidents

BARISAL, Apr 2: At least eleven people were killed in two southern districts of Barisal Division during last 24 hours till Wednesday evening in different accidents, a police source said, reports BSS.

Shibli Begum (13) and Delwar Hossain (25) were killed in the villages Khagurata and Badarkhani under sadar thana of Barguna district in two separate thunder strikes on Wednesday evening and seven others were injured in the incident. The injured have been admitted in sadar hospital.

The injured are, Khaleda Begum 25, Hachina 24, Sabuj 6, Shahid 3, Chhagor 8, Jahangir 11 and S Rab 30.

Seven fishermen have been missing since Wednesday evening while a trawler sank in the Bay of Bengal about 20 kilometres south of Mahipur of Barguna district, the source added.

Besides, two persons were killed in an accident in Pirojpur district on Tuesday evening when a house collapsed on them during a cyclone accompanied by heavy rainfall there.

About 12 fishing boats sank and 300 kucha houses were destroyed by a cyclone Wednesday after noon in Barisal district. Six villages of the district have been facing heavy losses by this cyclone. Standing crops have been damaged in these villages. No loss of life have however been reported yet.

Cotton output decreasing in greater Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Apr 2: Production of shimul cotton, commonly known as 'shimul tula' has decreased as the shimul trees in Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts of greater Rangpur are dying due to lack of proper care.

The area was once rich in cotton production. There were numerous shimul tula trees in the vast fallow land of the area. But most of these trees are dying. Cotton production is now scanty, consequently, the prices of cotton has marked a sharp rise recently. Shimul tula can easily change economic condition of a family if they own a shimul tree. A single tree produces at least five maunds of shimul cotton every year and its market value is between Taka 10,000 and Taka 12,000.

The knowledgeable circle said, the people should be given advice in respect of shimul tula production methodically and maintenance of cotton trees.

Hons, masters courses to be introduced in degree colleges

BANDARBAN, Apr 2: The government has taken steps to introduce honours and masters degree courses in the government colleges at district headquarters, reports UNB.

Education Minister Barister Jamiruddin Sircar revealed this while speaking as the chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of the newly constructed science building of Bandarban Government College Wednesday.

He said the present government has given due importance in imparting education to the tribal people of the hill-districts and has undertaken gigantic programme for improving the standard of education of the country.

The Education Minister said national university has been established to restore academic discipline in the campus while the Open University has been established to create opportunity for those who will be out of formal education.

He called upon the students, teachers and guardians to put in their best efforts for maintaining academic atmosphere in the educational arena.

He said, government is restoring academic atmosphere in the campus through resisting all sorts of violence and assured that Bandarban Government College will be upgraded to a degree college as per commitment of the Prime Minister.

Presided over by Chairman of Bandarban Local Government Parishad, the function was addressed by Mama Ching MP, Bir Bahadur MP, Boman Raja and Mong Shu Piu Chowdhury.

Earlier, the minister also addressed at a foundation laying ceremony of the newly building of Matamohori College at Lama.



SYLHET: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman speaking as chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of local law college recently. — Star photo

Latest results of research needed for better treatment

CHITTAGONG, Apr 2: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah al-Noman said close contact with the latest results of research on medical science is necessary in order to improve the standard of health services in the country, says UNB.

He said, research on medical science is continuously going on throughout the world and we must have close contact with their latest results.

The Minister was addressing as chief guest at a symposium organised by the Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society in collaboration with renowned pharmaceutical company Ciba-Geigy at a local hotel here on Wednesday.

He said, people of populous and development countries like ours are acutely suffering from liver diseases and needy people in the rural areas are

facing severe difficulties to get access for its treatment.

Referring to peptic ulcer disease the Minister said, it is a matter of immense hope that the treatment of complicated disease like peptic ulcer is now possible by endoscopy instead of operation due to the continuous development of Gastroenterology.

The poor people of the country will be much benefited by the treatment, he said.

Mentioning the various measures taken up by the present democratic government for improvement of health services in the country, Noman said, the arrangement of a symposium at international expert level on peptic ulcer in the backdrop of wide-spread outbreak of this disease in our country, is a timely and significant step.

He said, this will greatly

help the younger generation of our medical men to improve their professional expertise in one hand, and the government will also be benefitted to take policy decision in health sector on the other hand.

Main speaker Prof Sharad C Shah said, the diagnosis process of peptic ulcer is also being changed day by day and the health services of this region can be developed under the umbrella of SAARC framework.

Presided over by the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society Prof. Mahmud Hasan, the function was addressed by, among others, Dr Asma Raihan, World famous Gastroenterologist and head of Gastroenterology Department of Sir J Hospital and Grant Medical College of Bombay, Prof Sharad C Shah was the main speaker.

Extend best services for the cause of people, nation

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 2: Communications Minister Oli Ahmad said, the gap of understanding between the people and political leaders should be bridged for the sustainability of people-oriented politics, reports UNB.

The minister said this while addressing the workers meeting of Kishoreganj district BNP and its sister organisations at the local Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Wednesday. Deputy Minister of Shipping ABM Zahidul Huq and Major (Retd) Akhtaruzzaman MP were present.

Oli Ahmad said the political workers should try sincerely to win the heart of the people and act in consonance of their will and expectation. He called upon the workers to carry forward the welfare-oriented politics initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman what had withstood the test of time.

said an official handout.

Later, the minister addressed the district level government officials and urged them to give their best for the cause of people and nation.

He said, 'you are the permanent structure of the government and merits of the law should take precedence in dispensation of the sacred responsibility you are entrusted with.'

The Minister also visited Gochihata College, Rural Academy, and Gochihata Aqua Culture farm and inspected Kishoreganj-Nokli Road now under construction.

Another report says: Communications Minister Oli Ahmad said no democratic government, worthy of its name, betray with people's interest nor it can bow down to any unlawful demand.

The minister said this in a

public meeting at Kargaon High School ground here on Wednesday.

He said the democratic government of Begum Khaleda Zia had won the people's mandate to serve the nation as long as they want.

The meeting presided over by Prof Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan was also addressed by Deputy Minister for Shipping A B M Zahidul Huq, Major (Retd) Akhtaruzzaman MP, Amin Uddin Ahmad MP.

Some political quarters being apprehended at the overwhelming popularity of the party in power, have come out with all out efforts to mislead the people, Oli Ahmad said.

The government of Begum Khaleda Zia did, in fact, a magic in its endeavours of building economy of the country, he added.

The per-capita income in the country was about 178 US dollar at the time of taking over of the present government while that had risen to round about 220 US dollar within the span of three years time, said an official handout.

Oli Ahmad said, we are now in a position to contribute 33 per cent of the development expenditure from our own resources which was unheard of in the past and this should be kept unhindered by all means.

Earlier, the minister addressed a public meeting at Kalichapra Sugar Mills High School ground where the Deputy Minister for Shipping A B M Zahidul Huq also spoke. He also addressed way-side gatherings at Bhairav and Kotiadi.

Processing of raw skins polluting environment

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 2: The processing of raw skins in the open place of the pourashava polluted the environment causing health hazards and suffering to the residents and pedestrians, reports UNB.

Local people said skin dealers collect the raw skins from different areas and preserve those here and there in the town and salted the same in the open place.

The situation turns worse after Eid-ul Azha when skin

dealers process the skins for months together with least consideration of public annoyance and suffering.

Moreover, the skin dealers have constructed sheds in residential areas for keeping raw skins which they collect daily from different places.

The residents of the pourashava have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary measures in this regard to ensure safety of the public health.



MAULVIBAZAR: The members of the local Gunijan Sambardhana Parishad with the personalities who received prizes for their outstanding performances. — Star photo

Diarrhoea claims 23, attacks 840

PABNA, Apr 2: Diarrhoea claimed 23 lives and affected 840 people during the last ten days in the district, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

According to local people, six people including two infants died in Kolabari village in Faridpur thana, two in Bhargura, two in Chatmohor, five in sadar, six in Atghoria and two in Sujanagar.

Official sources, however, confirming seven deaths and said, 323 people were attacked by the disease during the period.

The water borne disease has broken out in 22 villages of six thanas of the district in an alarming proportion.

According to medical sources, poisonous wastes, intake of impure water and consumption of adulterated food-stuff are the main reasons for the outbreak of the disease.

Tigers killed 50 during last three years

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Apr 2: A total of 50 persons under Shyamnagar thana, was killed by the Royal Bengal Tigers in the Sundarbans during the last three years.

According to sources, the victims who were killed by the tigers during the period are: Amed Ali Tarafdar (25), Sahanur Begum (35), Bharat Mondal (22), Akram Karikar (25), Iman Sardar (45), Abbas Gazi (40), Simanuddin Tarafdar (60), Ansar Gazi (55), Rajab Ali Tarafdar (33), Efas Tullah Mollah (64), Kena Gazi (45), Abdul Sheikh (30), Rafiqul Gazi (12), Daulat Gazi (45), Munsur Sheikh (65), Moksed Gazi (43), Matlur Rafman (22), Ifaztullah Sheikh (45), Ashraf Ali (58), Munsur Ali Gazi (45), Fazul Haq Mali (25), Idris Gazi (36), Golam Mostofa (55), Shahar Ali Gazi (45), Montez Ali (45), Rokeya (19), Harendra Nath Sarkar (40), Sadhu Charam Mondal (55), Rustom Sardar (57), Aruna Bala Mondal (26), Nasim Uddin Gazi (45), Abdul Majid Gazi (27), Niranjani Haldar (35), Suraj Mistri (35), Mofazzel Gazi (26), Fazal Sheikh (45), Kudus Sheikh (40), Araj Ullah Gazi (19), Kausar (38) and others.

It is reported that the vic-

tims while collecting wood, honey and go leaves and catching fish in the Sundarbans, the tigers swooped on them and killed them during the period.

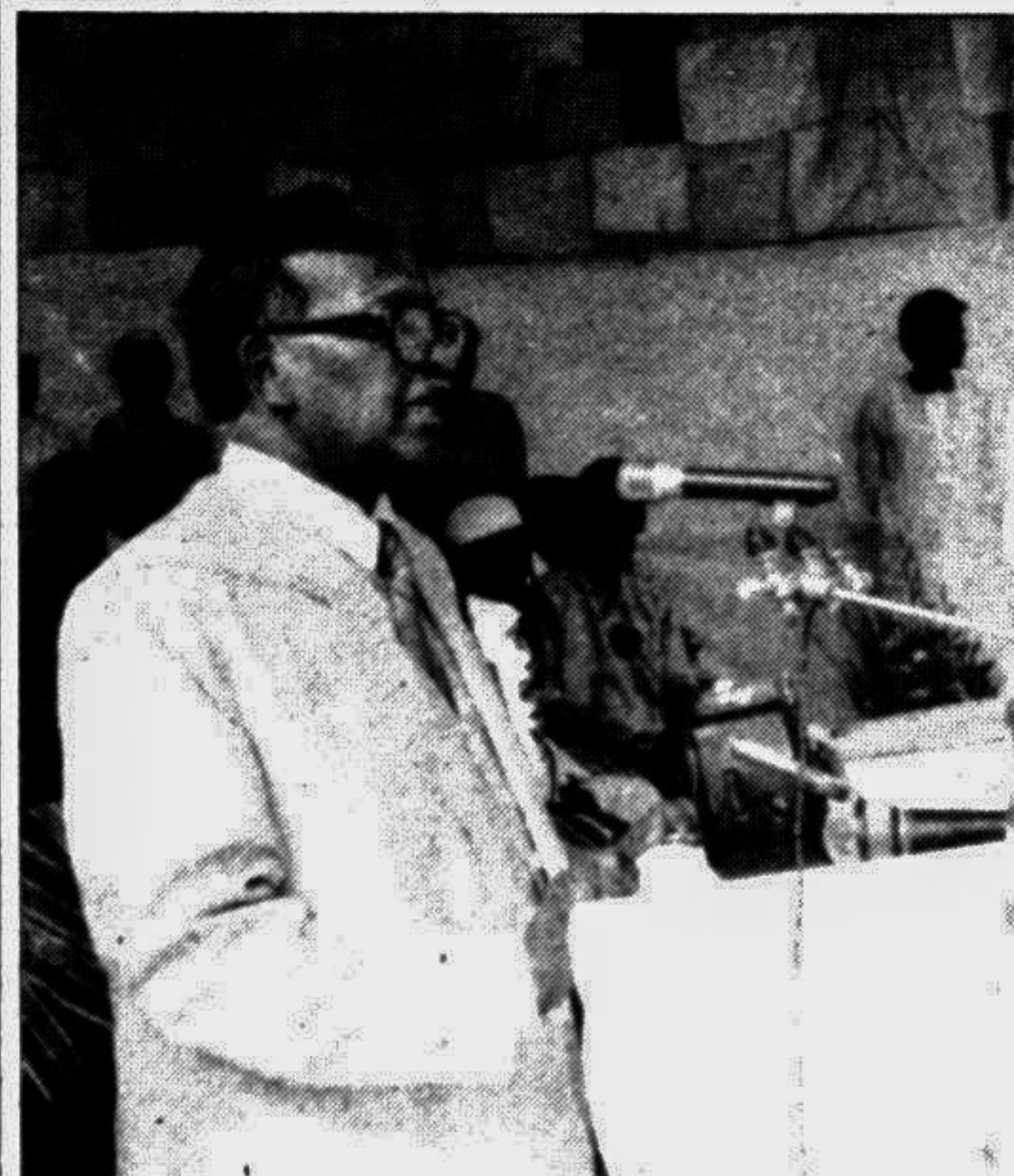
Another report says: A N M Bashir Ullah, Judge, Special Tribunal Court No 4 convicted one Sabur Ali of Shikari village under sadar thana on charge of smuggling and sentenced him to suffer R I for three years and to pay a fine of Taka 5000 in default to suffer R I for more three months recently.

The case in brief is accused that the BDR man caught the on August 10 last while coming from Indian side with Bangladeshi currency worth Taka 2,55,000 by selling gold there.

A case was lodged with the Satkhira PS and after investigation police submitted charge sheet against him. The learned judge tried the case and found him guilty and awarded the said punishment.

Meanwhile, one Arif (14) son of Afiluddin of village Noapara under Asassuni thana, committed suicide by taking insecticide recently.

It is reported that the victim, Arif a student of class IX of a madrasah took poison following family trouble.



CHANDPUR: Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar addressing a public meeting at Farajikandi of the district recently. — Star photo

Open sale of adulterated food stuff in restaurants

MOULAVIBAZAR, Apr 2: Open sale of adulterated food-stuffs in different hotels and restaurants throughout the district is rampant causing health hazards to customers, reports UNB.

Most of the hotels in different markets and stations are dirty and unhygienic. The owners of these hotels keep their items open for sale. A very few owners have got licences to continue their business, it is alleged.

A customer of the district town, who preferred anonymity, told UNB that it is

very hard to collect pure edible oil from the local markets.

The sellers mix low quality oil with the mustard and soyabean oil to earn maximum profit, he alleged.

Local people also alleged that an organised group of dishonest people are engaged in this sort of criminal practice with the help of some well placed officials of the district.

The ignorant and innocent people buy these adulterated items with their good faith. Meanwhile, a good number of people have been attacked by various diseases due to consumption of these food items. The poor customers usually prefer the items which are cheaper.

Inhabitants of the district headquarters alleged that the health department as well as the members of the law enforcing agencies are not concerned at all about public health and helping the unscrupulous businessmen without taking any action against them.

They urged the district administration to look into the matter and take legal action for the sake of public health against the unscrupulous businessmen immediately.

One killed in road accident

DINAJPUR, Apr 2: A man was killed in a road accident here at Kalmaghat on Wednesday, police said Friday, reports UNB.

Yunus Ali was run over by a truck bound for Baladangi coming from Thakurgaon and died on the spot.

The body was sent to Dinajpur General Hospital for autopsy.

Driver of the truck managed to escape with his vehicle from the scene.

District roundup

NOWABGANJ

Educate more people to remove problems

Apr 2: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan Thursday said, the present government was pledged bound to change the lot of the common people of the country. In this context, the state minister listed different steps of the government, says BSS.

The state minister was addressing two separate public meetings at Shollah and Meleng in Nowabganj on the occasion of inaugurating the expansion works of electrification of four unions of the thana.

The state minister said, our national development largely depends on education. If we are able to educate our common people, our various problems could be solved.

The state minister said, to bring about a radical change in the socio-economic condition of the rural people, the government has taken various projects like rural electrification and better communication network in the country. The government was committed to solve the sufferings of the people of the country, he added. Later, the state minister inaugurated the newly built hostel of the Shollah High School.

COMILLA

Furious ox kills two

Apr 2: Two cattle traders were shoved to death by an ox at Elliganj cattle market in Daudkandi thana last week, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, an ox of Taju of Kutumbpur suddenly became furious and attacked the cattle traders, killing Abdul Gaur 40 of Mehichail village on the spot on March 27.

Seriously wounded Sharif Ali succumbed to his injuries in Gauripur Health Complex.

Another reports UNB report says: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has undertaken 127 projects in Barura thana at a cost of Taka 3.42 crore.

The projects are expected to be implemented during the current fiscal year, official sources said.

The projects include construction and reconstruction of the government and registered primary schools, implementation of 29 development projects and village development projects.

Of the total projects 55 have already been completed and the work on the remaining 74 projects are in progress, officials added.

LALMONIRHAT

Two killed in separate incidents

Apr 2: A young man was run over by a Patgram bound minibus at Aditmari area on Lalmaithat-Patgram road on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Nabi Hossain 17 died on the spot as the bus hit him while he tried to cross the road.

Police seized the bus, but the driver, however, managed to flee the scene.

The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with Aditmari thana in this connection.

Another report says: A young housewife who was found in a dying state near Hatibanda Health Complex on Tuesday morning died at the complex soon after admission. The dead was identified as Aratibala 25 wife of Birendrachandra of Gondukuri village in Aditmari thana.

The body was sent of sadar hospital for autopsy. An UD case was filed with the local police.

CHITTAGONG

Attack on CU vehicle condemned

Apr 2: The Syndicate of the University of Chittagong in its extraordinary meeting Wednesday strongly condemned the attack on the university car bearing the number GA-18 at Shaheed Abdur Rab Road by some miscreants on Tuesday last, says BSS.

According to a university press release the meeting also expressed resentment over the attack in which the wife of Vice-Chancellor was also injured.

The meeting proposed for immediate arrest of the persons responsible for the attack and punish them, the press release added.

BARISAL

Furniture for sixty institutions

Apr 2: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has supplied furniture to 60 educational institutions including eight madrasahs in four districts of Barisal Division at a cost of Taka 52.02 lakh during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, each government primary school and madrasah received 48 pairs of high and low benches and six pairs of tables and chairs.

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) assisted the scheme.

PATUAKHALI

Work unitedly for overall welfare of nation

Apr 2: Minister for Religious Affairs, Muhammad Keramat Ali here Thursday underscored the need for working unitedly for overall welfare of the nation, says BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting on the occasion of distributing relief goods to destitute people of the area, PID handout said.

The minister said the people were the source of all power and as such the aim and objective of all politics should be aimed at people's welfare.

He said, the present government had been working ceaselessly to ensure better life for the commonman. In this context, the minister said, the democratic system in the country could be strengthened only through rendering services to the people.

The minister later distributed relief goods among people of the locality.

TANGAIL

Discussion on minimising terrorism

Apr 2: A meeting to decide measures against terrorism, and toll collection was held on Tuesday in the deputy commissioner's conference room here, reports BSS.

Abdul Matin Khondoker, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail, presided over the meeting. Members of police administration, district administration, political leaders, business community, students, trade union representatives and elite of the town attended the meeting.

The meeting stressed the need for taking steps to control terrorism and toll collection in the district.

District and police administration cooperation of all section of people to ensure peaceful atmosphere in the society. Among others Mustafizur Rahman, Police Super, Tangail, spoke on the occasion.

M'BAZAR

Tk 12.50 lakh for road uplift projects

Apr 2: The Moulavibazar pourashava has undertaken eight development schemes at an estimated cost of Taka 12.50 lakh during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The schemes include construction of seven roads and four culverts.

With implementation of the projects, road communication in the poura area will be improved, officials said.

KHULNA

47,000 hectares of land to be cultivated

Apr 2: Cultivation on 47,400 hectares of lands has been fixed as the target in the Khulna district during the current summer season, reports UNB.

Officials said, a total of 1,600,620 metric tons of different crops would be produced with fulfillment of the target.

Of the target, aus paddy will be cultivated on 11 hectares of lands, aman on 22,200 hectares of lands, vegetables on 4,000 hectares of lands, nuts on 200 hectares of lands, till oil on 10,000 hectares of lands.

Besides, pulse will be cultivated on 1,20,300 hectares of lands in nine thanas of the district, yielding a total of one lakh tons of the crops.