

## 60 villages under water following damage of embankment

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Apr 3: About 60 villages under Shyamnagar and Kaligonj thanas of the district have been inundated due to onrush of water following damage of WAPDA embankment near the river Kholpetna on March 24 last.

A total of 100,000 people of these areas have been affected by the onrush of water. The water started entering the areas when the embankment was washed away due to onrush of water from Kholpetna river.

According to latest information, about 10,000 kutcha houses, been damaged. About 12,000 acres of standing boro crops on 10,000 acres of land were damaged. More than 100 shrimp ghers were also washed away causing a loss of Taka over 10 crore.

Golpasa worth Taka one crore have also been washed away. Cattle heads and poultry birds are not getting food. Acute crisis of pure drinking water is persisting in the affected areas as most of the tubewells are now under water.

The homeless people have taken shelter on different embankments and the verandas of schools of these areas. They are passing hard days due to lack of relief and shelter.

The correspondent visited

the affected areas and found that all the kutcha houses of these areas have been affected. One Rokeya Begum, 35 of Kashmiri union took shelter in a high school. She told the harrowing tales of misery that all their belongings have been completely damaged by onrush of water. Monsur Ahmed MP paid a visit to the affected areas and he was visibly moved by the untold sufferings of the people who are living under open sky. He expressed his grave concern over the situation.

When contacted, the Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira said that he had already ordered the WAPDA authority to take immediate measures to save lives of the suffering people and reconstruct the damaged embankment as early as possible.

Adequate relief, house building materials and pure drinking water are the crying need of the hour in the affected areas.

**Educational facilities demanded**  
Another reports says: In the education sector, Satkhira district is lagging far behind than other areas of the country. Facilities for higher educa-

tion are almost nil here. The standard of education imparted through the existing undeveloped and substandard colleges of the district is very poor and as such the limited turn out of these colleges can hardly compete with those of other regions. The condition of other newly established institutions in the district is deplorable. Proper academic environment is lacking in all the institutions due to the dearth of qualified and trained teachers, absence of libraries with valuable books, scientific apparatus with adequate research materials, extra-curricular activities and recreational facilities.

**Number of schools inadequate**  
The number of primary schools in the district is inadequate to meet the needs of the education. The rate of illiteracy in the district is much higher than those of other regions of the country.

The problem is simply a staggering one. The alarming extent of illiteracy coupled with extreme poverty is eating up the vitals of the people.

**Nationalisation of institutions needed**  
Thana-level primary schools

should be included in the pilot project and other primary schools in the villages be included in the development programmes on priority basis. It is widely felt.

Because of the riverine nature and communication difficulties in the district, the growth of more primary schools at village levels under government assistance is essential.

Many primary schools of this district are accommodated in dilapidated kutcha houses without fencing and even without sitting arrangements and other minimum facilities.

A good number of primary schools have either been blown away or badly damaged by flood, cyclone and storm.

The number of primary girls schools is also hopelessly poor and in the interest of spreading female education, girls primary schools need to be established in each union and other important places of the district. It is expected.

A good number of primary schools set up by local initiatives are about to be closed-down due to the delay in receiving help from the government.



JHENIDAH: Improved variety of cows at a dairy farm in village Charbakharba in Sailakupa thana. — Star photo

## Bright prospect for dairy farming in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 3: Prospect for dairy farming looks bright in Jhenidah district.

According to a source, every year the number of dairy farms is increasing in the district. At present there are 13 registered dairy farms in the district which covers three in sadar thana, one in Kaligonj thana, two in Kotchandpur thana and the rest of the seven farms are located in Sailkupa thana.

About 89 improved varieties of cows are being nursed in these farms.

Another 80 milch cows in 67 unregistered farms are being supplied to different areas, according to a livestock department source. At least 12 dairy farm owners were given incentives to encourage the local people last year. Few more farm owners would be given incentives for increasing

last year per litre of milk was sold between Taka six and Taka 14 but now the rate has increased between Taka 12 and Taka 16. Milk Vita company and some regular buyers are purchasing milk from some parts of the district.

The livestock department added that the district office is interested to expand the milk market once the programmes end successfully.

A number of families is running this kind of dairy farms and selling milk. Nimai Ghosh, a farm owner of village Charbakharba in Sailkupa thana of the district said that he was provided with the incentive declared by the government last year. He hoped that he might get the same this year also to further raise milk production from his dairy farm.

## Leaseholders collecting tolls at higher rate

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 3: The buyers and sellers of the hats and bazars in the district have been suffering much for the collection of tolls at higher rate by the leaseholders, reports UNB.

The leaseholders realise tolls at inflated rates inflated rates in flagrant violating the official orders in the hats and bazars of Shibganj, Nachol, Bhoahat, Gomostapur and Sadar thanas. While collecting the tolls the official chart showing rates of tolls for arti-

cles is not shown at all any where, it is alleged.

Tolls are realise according to the whims of the leaseholders. No receipts are given against these realisations which often leads to row and even scuffles.

Local people alleged that though tolls are supposed to be realised on fixed days the leaseholders' men realise the same on all the seven days of the week at enhanced rates.

It is widely complained that toll is realised every day but nothing is down for the improvement of the hats and bazars.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take steps against the dishonest leaseholders without further delay.

Another report says: A teenage boy received acid burn injuries while enjoying a religious festival at the town on Tuesday morning.

The boy identified as Alak Karmaker (15) son of Sudhir Karmaker was admitted to Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

## Storm hits Sirajganj: 1 killed, 7 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 3: A man was killed and seven others were wounded when a storm lashed Sadar and Kamarkhand thanas of the district today, villagers and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Abdul Shaikh, 58, was struck by thunderbolt on way to his village home at Chhotodiari in Sadar thana this evening. He died on the spot.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take steps against the dishonest leaseholders without further delay.

Another report says: A teenage boy received acid burn injuries while enjoying a religious festival at the town on Tuesday morning.

The boy identified as Alak Karmaker (15) son of Sudhir Karmaker was admitted to Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take steps against the dishonest leaseholders without further delay.

Another report says: A teenage boy received acid burn injuries while enjoying a religious festival at the town on Tuesday morning.

The boy identified as Alak Karmaker (15) son of Sudhir Karmaker was admitted to Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

## Use of green jute in making pulp to start by July

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 3: Preparations are going on to install a plant for jute in the Sylhet Paper and Pulp Mills by July this year.

It was stated by the industries Minister Jahiruddin Khan on Friday. He was talking to the journalists at Sylhet Osmany Airport on his way back to Dhaka after a two-day visit of the paper mill, an enterprise of BCIC.

The minister hoped that a remarkable progress would be achieved in the pulp production through using green jute in place of reed as raw-material. It will also lower the cost of raw-material by 70 per cent, he said.

The plant will open a new era for large-scale and diversified use green jute and will be first of its kind in the world, he informed.

Initially, the plant will use 25,000 metric tonnes of green jute for producing 5,000 tonnes of pulp per year. It will be doubled soon, he mentioned.

The minister also informed that the plant would cost about Taka 21 crore including a foreign exchange component of Taka 18 crore as grant from the EEC. The plant is expected to go into production within two years, he added.



NATORE: Prof M Anisur Rahman, VC, Rajshahi University, addressing a Eid-reunion and discussion meeting on Independence Day held here recently. — Star photo

## Life, property uncertain in district

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 3: The security of life and property has become uncertain in 13 thanas of the district due to deterioration of law and order for the last three months, reports UNB.

Local people said, various crimes are rampant and the peace loving people have been passing their days amid fear and panic.

Dacoity, robbery, kidnapping, theft, hijacking, toll collection, armed clashes between rival groups, rape, mur-

der, gambling and other anti-social activities have increased in the district during the period.

The worst affected thanas are: Sadar, Karimganj, Bharab, Katiadi, Pakundia, Hossainpur and Bajitpur.

The residents of these thanas alleged that the law enforcing agencies usually play silent or mysterious role in most of the incidents and people are losing confidence in them.

The police said due to inadequate staff, vehicles and hazardous communication system they cannot combat the growing crimes adding that many crimes are not even registered by the concerned people for which action cannot be taken.

Officer-in-Charge of Sadar police station said, they are trying best to improve the situation but due to various problems and non-cooperation of the concerned village people they are facing hurdles in this regard.

## Contributions of Fish Research Institute towards production

The Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) established in 1984 on 110 acres of land beside Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh has attained successes in the field of fish production through research and practical experiences.

The main aims and objectives of the institute was to carry out basic and adaptive research aimed at developing of all living aquatic resources and coordinate fisheries research activities in Bangladesh, to experiment and standardise for maximum production and for better management of living aquatic resources, to identify new production opportunities and develop them to usable levels, to develop skilled research manpower through training, to transfer the technologies developed to users through training of extension workers, planners and fish farmers, and to advise the government in all matters relating to research and management of living aquatic resources.

The programmes of FRI are funded by the government, International Development Agency (IDA), USAID, IDRC and similar foreign funding agencies.

The institution has four different stations throughout the country including two sub-stations, one in Rangamati and the other in Santahar. These stations are, Freshwater Station at Mymensingh, Riverines Station at Chandpur for exclusive research works on inland openwater fisheries management and development of production for riverine species, Brackishwater Station in Khulna which undertakes research on various aspects of brackishwater aquaculture including assessment of shrimp seed resources, mangrove ecology, development of techniques for shrimp seeds production, semi-intensive and intensive culture of commer-

cially important shellfish and finfish, Marine Fisheries and Technological Station in Cox's Bazar which undertakes research on marine shrimp seed production, marine ecology, disease diagnosis and control, preservation technologies and quality control.

The Freshwater Fisheries Research Institute in Mymensingh is one of the four research institute which is actively involved in conducting research on hatchery management, fish reproduction, genetics, production or culture systems, fish feed and nutrition, fish disease and socio-economic aspects of freshwater aquaculture.

The research station has 118 ponds, all of which are drainable. The ponds range in size from 0.04 to 0.62 hectare. A modern hatchery with a capacity to produce over three crore fry annually has also access to incubation systems for research on fish reproduction.

Research on various types of fish is carried out throughout the year keeping pace with season. A number of laboratories, equipped with most modern apparatus, help the scientific officers to study on different angles. Test results are filed in computer memory chips for future references.

Different research methods in laboratories, gene pools, hatchery ponds and in cold storages are randomly applied for exact positive outcome of the whole study.

Induced spawning is one such method in which different dosages of hormones are used to develop low cost hatchery management system. Another method, multiple spawning, uses chromosome manipulation to form triploids. Research on polyculture and integrated farming are some of the few more methods being used by the scientists at the Freshwater Station.

The above mentioned me-

thods have already experienced remarkable success stories. Many more similar methods are on progress at the station to explore the vast resources of the water bodies in the country.

Two different species of catfish, one of the native, *Clarias batrachus* and other from Africa, *Clarias gariepinus* were interbred or crossed to raise fry survival. The new hybrids were found to have far better growth rate. This is one of many achievements of the institute. Almost all the study results are recorded. These records are sent to other fish research stations for coordination. The concerned government bodies are advised through FRI on the basis of

outcome of the records. One such important recommendation was, banning of jatka or juvenile fishing. Indiscriminate fishing of jatka resulted in large scale withdrawal of fish from the water bodies of the country. A significant amount of fish was in short supply in the markets due to this reason.

"Huge quantities of fish worth millions of taka can be exported if the water bodies were properly used," said Dr M A Mazid, Director of Fisheries Research Institute while talking to the Daily Star. "A number of foreign companies have shown their keen interest to invest in Bangladesh for fish production. Few Dutch companies are already dealing with their Bangladeshi partners for

processing and packaging of fish for export to Europe." More interested foreign partners can be attracted if private bodies took more initiatives, added Mazid who has great contribution, specially in the field of research.

Potential for fish output in the country can be considered as a boon, however, what is lacking is technology. The real know-how must play a vital role among the fish farmers who have ever growing interest to increase fish production.

Trainings are held periodically to transfer technology among extension workers and farmers. Methods are taught through practical studies of demonstration at the institute. For technology dissemination and feedback to research, the

institute undertakes collaborative programmes with the Department of Fisheries (DOF), Department of Agriculture Extension and different NGOs. Besides, the institute published 20 training manuals for the trainees.

"Huge crowd gather to witness demonstration of Farming System Research (FSR) at Maskanda, some 20 kilometer away from Mymensingh town," says M D Anwarul Islam, a Scientific Officer at (FSR). "This enthusiasms shows people do care in fish farming."

There are eight agroecological zones of FSR which work in collaboration with Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) and Sugarcane Research and Training Institute (SRTI). The aim of FRS is to increase fish output from homestead ponds and ditches using agricultural wastes and by products.

"We try to transfer best knowledges to the interested group to develop fisheries management system" added Islam who has bright new ambitions in this field.

Many non-government organisations send extension workers for training at the institution, eventually developing fish farming of a particular area.

The majority of our fish farmers used to rely on their own methods of raising production but now its the other way round, they ask more questions than ever before," Islam further added.

The institution organises international and national workshops to exchange expertise and to discuss various problems. One such international workshop was held in June 1989 on Fish Seed Production.

The institution, no doubt at all, has been established as a distinct academic discipline in the country's education system.

## District roundup

CHUADANGA

### Four arrested with arms

Apr 3: Police in separate raids arrested four people from Alamdanga thana and recovered unauthorised arms from their possession during the last fortnight, reports UNB.

The recovered arms are: one rifle, one Indian shutter gun and 26 rounds of rifle ammunition.

Acting on secret information, police raided different houses of the area and arrested those people.

Cases have been filed with the police in these connection.

KUSHLIA

### Pourashava observes founding day

Apr 3: A three-day-long function to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Kushlia Pourashava began here on Friday reports UNB.

The LGRD and Cooperatives Secretary Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury inaugurated the function at the pourashava premises. Pourashava Chairman Anwar Alf presided.

The anniversary programmes include discussions, cultural functions and various games and sports.

A three-day fair has also been arranged on the occasion. Different handicrafts items are being exhibited in the fair.

COMILLA

### Five awarded imprisonment for dacoity

Apr 3: Five people were awarded rigorous imprisonment for different terms ranging from 3 to 7 years for committing dacoity, court sources said here Saturday, reports UNB.

The convicts identified as Ahsan Ullah son of Rafiq Mia of Muradpur in the sadar thana, Mohammad Islam and Shahid Mia were sentenced for five years each and to pay a fine of Taka 2000 each, in default, to suffer RI for further six months.

Another accused Jamaluddin was awarded RI for seven years in absentia with a fine of Taka 2000, in default, to suffer another six months RI. And Amir Hossain was awarded RI for three years with a fine of Taka 1000, in default, to suffer another three months.

The case, in brief, was that the convicted people committed dacoity at the residence of Kaykobad Sarker of Comilla Housing Estate and looted cash, gold and other valuables worth Taka 80,000.

Kaykobad Sarker filed a case against them. After investigation police submitted charge sheet against them.

After examining the evidences and records Assistant Sessions Judge, 3rd Court, Mohammad Ali Mansoor awarded the punishment last week.

HABIGANJ

### Emphasis on communication network

Apr 3: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-al-Rashid said here on Friday that present government laid emphasis on better communication network to improve rural economy and standard of rural life, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting at Andiora Eidgah Maidan in Madhabpur thana after inaugurating the reconstruction work of 2.5-km-long Andiora-Dokkinpara Road here under Food for Works Programme.

Presided over by Habiganj district BNP president Advocate Afroz Afgan Chowdhury, the function was addressed, among others, by Enamul Hoque Mostafa Shahid MP, District BNP Secretary Shafiqur Rahman and local leader Babul Chowdhury.

The state minister said, present government had been making all-out efforts to achieve economic emancipation through implementing development programmes.

Stressing the need for democratic system in the country the state minister said, only a democratic government can ensure the fulfillment of hopes and aspirations of the people.

He called upon all to actively participate in the pragmatic programmes taken up by the government for national progress and prosperity.

Thirty metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the project. On completion of the project about fifteen thousand people will be benefited.

MALDEE COURT

### Tk 25,000 donation for press club

Apr 3: Chashire Foundation Homes of Bangladesh, a voluntary organisation, donated Taka 25,000 to Noakhali Press Club for its development activities, reports UNB.

Former chief justice and chairman of Chashire Foundation, Badrul Haider Chowdhury handed over the cheque to the secretary of the Press Club in a simple ceremony held at the club auditorium recently.

Meanwhile, another cheque of the same amount was also handed over to the secretary of the Press Club by the former chief justice in the same function. The amount was collectively donated by Justice Chowdhury himself, his relations and well-wishers.

Mentionable that the construction work of the first floor of the club building is progressing fast.

SUNAMGANJ

### Minister visits flood hit area, assures all govt support

Apr 3: Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, visited the flood affected areas of Sunamganj district on Thursday last, reports BSS.

During his visit, the minister distributed sarces, lungi, rice, baby food and cash money among the flood victims at Jamalgonj and sadar thana under Sunamganj.

Standing crops on 80,000 hectares of land have been submerged and damaged due to sudden onrush of waters from the up streams and the adjoining hilly areas across the borders.

The industries minister was informed, that the extent of overall damage was estimated at about Taka 12 crore.

Nazir Hossain, MP and MD Fazlul Huque (Aspia) President of Sunamganj District BNP accompanied the minister during the visit.

Addressing several spontaneous gatherings, the minister said, the government would provide all sorts of support and assistances to the flood victims. He urged the people to face the calamity with patience and courage.

He called upon the local people to raise embankment on voluntary basis to protect their crops from flood.

MANIKGANJ

### Three held with Tk 6 lakh contraband goods

Apr 3: Police arrested three people and recovered from their possession Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka 6 lakh from a truck on Friday night, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, Shibhalaya police raided a Dhaka-bound truck loaded with rice coming from Rajshahi in front of Shibhalaya police station and recovered 1,108 pieces of Indian three piece beneath the rice bags in nine jute bundles.

Police arrested the truck driver Abdul Hossain (35) of West Muradpur village and his helper Md Babul (30) of East Jurain village in Demra thana of Dhaka district and Md Murad (28) of frontier Jamira village in Putta thana of Rajshahi district.

In their confession, all the three arrested said Suja (20), Faisal (25), Babon (30) and Riazul (35) of Jamira village in Putta thana of Rajshahi district assigned them to handover the smuggled goods to one Rentu, who resides at Noor Boarding House at Gabtali.

All the arrested were sent to jail hajat.

A case was filed with Shibhalaya police in this connection.

CHITTAGONG

### Drive to clean city area

Apr 3: Chittagong City Corporation will launch a two-month-long special drive on Tuesday to make the city clean and tidy, reports UNB.

City Mayor ABM Mohtudin Chowdhury announced the programme at a press conference at the corporation office Saturday morning.

In the first phase of the programme, he said, 18 out of 41 wards of the city will be brought under the programme at an estimated cost of Taka 10 lakh. Some 844 employees will be involved in the programme.

The mayor said, vigorous campaigns through seminars, posters, miking and slide shows will be carried out to make the drive a success.