

National

Flood situation worsens in Netrokona

NETROKONA, Apr 4: Flood situation in Kaliajuri thana under Netrokona district deteriorated further due to heavy rainfall during the past five days and also onrush of hilly waters from across the border, reports BSS.

Reports reaching here at the district headquarters Sunday from the thana sadar said the flood waters have so far submerged eight haors, two embankments and washed away high yielding boro paddy on over 10,000 acres.

Netrokona district water development board sources said that river Dhanu crossed danger mark Sunday morning at Kaliajuri point.

District administration sources said that a message was despatched Sunday to the Relief Ministry asking for allotment of relief both in cash and kind for the affected people of the thana.

BSS correspondent during a visit to the affected area saw the vast cropland under water. Besides, Kaliajuri, two other thanas of the district — Mohanganj and Modan have also been partially affected by the flash flood.

Telephones disconnected, Tk 4.25 cr bills outstanding

BARISAL, Apr 4: Five hundred telephone lines were disconnected Sunday to realise about 39 lakh taka outstanding telephone bills from private consumers in Barisal town, reports UNB.

According to the Barisal T&T Revenue Office, there are 1.75 crore taka in semi-government offices and Taka 2.50 crore in private sector outstanding telephone bills in 11 districts under Barisal Telecommunication zone.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bholia, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj.

Besides, Taka 1.20 crore remain outstanding bill against 1,000 closed telephones in these districts.

There are about 11,000 telephone consumers in these districts, the sources said.

88 people including a fugitive held, arms recovered

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 4: Police arrested a fugitive, allegedly involved in various criminal activities for the last three years from Kutirchar-Bhadraghat village in Kamarkhand thana Saturday, reports UNB.

Alam 24, son of Ali Zaker, who was wanted in seven dacoity cases, including stabbing of a local Jubadal leader and assaulting Shahidullah Khan MP, was arrested from his residence.

Police said, Alam had stabbed Md Hanif, Organising Secretary of Jubadal at the court premises on February 20. The critically wounded Jubadal leader is now undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Another report adds: Sadar thana police in a special drive recovered a country-made pugun and 13 rounds of bullet from Khokshabari village in Kamarkhand thana on Friday night.

Acting on a tip, police rushed to the village where a gang of dacoits was preparing to commit dacoity.

Sensing the presence of police, the gang fled the scene, leaving the arms and ammunition.

In Sirajganj district, police arrested some 88 people on various charges in a special drive against crimes in last one month. The arrested included some absconding convicts.

Projects to construct flood shelters in coastal area

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Apr 4: Five projects have been taken up in the coastal areas of three thanas of the district to save the people during the flood, reports UNB.

For the successful implementation of these earthen shelter projects, at least 497 metric tons of wheat have been allocated, official source said.

According to District Relief and Rehabilitation Department, about 181 metric tons of wheat have been allotted for two projects in sadar thana, 112 metric tons of wheat for one project in Companiganj thana and 203 metric tons for two projects in Hatia thana.

These projects will mostly facilitate the people of the coastal areas for taking shelter during the flood and disaster.

The work on the projects is expected to be completed by June next.



SYLHET: A rally was brought out at the town during the week-long drama festival held here recently. Prof Kabir Chowdhury led the rally.

— Star photo

Dredging of 126-km-long Khowai river needed

Farming on 80,000 acres of land, future of 4 lakh people uncertain

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Apr 4: Cultivation on 80,000 acres of land and future of over four lakh people have become uncertain as the dredging of river Khowai has been stopped for the reasons not known.

The Water Development Board took up the plan to save crops of the vast area from flood.

The 126-km-long Khowai river often overflow the bank along the villages of Chunurhat, Baniachang, Bahubal, Lakhal and other thanas.

During the time of flood, sand flows from the upper stream of the river which is situated in Indian territory. As a result, flood waters flow over the banks of the river and submerge the adjoining areas.

Most of the families of the areas face crisis for the regular flood.

To control the flood, a plan was prepared and placed for construction of an embankment along the river Khowai in 1964.

For permanent solution of the problem, a scheme was taken up in 1971-72 at an estimated cost of Taka 39.41 crore. The scheme was scheduled to be completed by 1981-82 financial year.

Unfortunately, the Water Development Board could not complete the work of the scheme for the reasons not known.

The present government

stopped the work in July last which left the people helpless.

Another report says: Nine persons were killed and 10 others injured in separate incidents in different places of the district during the last few weeks.

According to police sources, Taskir Mia, a businessman of village Charkon under Nabiganj PS was killed by a group of miscreants of village Kanaipur under the same PS.

A case was started with the Nabiganj PS in this connection.

A day-long hartal was observed at Nabiganj demanding punishment to the killers.

Police arrested Abdur Rouf, Chairman of Nabiganj sadar union parishad in this connection.

In another incident, a pregnant woman of village Ladhi under Habiganj PS was killed recently.

Witnesses said, Musammath Mahbano, a pregnant woman was severely beaten by her enemies over a petty matter. She died on the spot.

A minor boy was killed and another one injured in a tragic road accident at Baniyachong recently.

Police and witnesses said, on the day of incident at about 1.30 pm a Habiganj bound truck (Sylhet T 02437) from Baniyachong hit two minor boys at Ratna Ferry Ghat and they were seriously injured. They were immediately taken to

Habiganj sadar hospital where one of them died.

A case was started with the concerned police station.

Police seized the killer truck but the driver was absconding.

One Pervin Begum, 12 was run over by a truck on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Kanaipur police camp under Bahubal PS and killed him on the spot.

The victim was a servant of a clerk of Kanaipur Tea Garden.

A case was filed with the Bahubal police.

One Nuruzzaman, 14 of village Mohanpur under Habiganj district with due solemnity.

District administration and other socio-cultural organisations, educational institutions chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the day in a befitting manner.

The programme includes hoisting of National Flag atop all public and private buildings, games and sports, special prayers for the peace and prosperity of the country, distribution of improved diet among the inmates of jail and hospitals, seminar, discussion meetings and cultural functions.

Local Mukti Joddah Sangsad, women college and girls' high schools also drawn up separate programmes to celebrate the Independence Day.

Meanwhile, Chunurhat police arrested a notorious dacoit, Kasum Ali and recovered three rounds ammunition along with other materials from his house in a raid recently, according to police sources.

Acting on a secret information S I Zahedul Islam along with other police personnel conducted the raid.

Use rural road network for economic activities

DUMURIA (Khulna), Apr 4: Six-kilometre-long Dumuria-Mirzapur Road under Dumuria thana of Khulna district was formally inaugurated by Jatiya Sangsad Whip Ashraf Hossain Saturday, reports BSS.

The project is being implemented by Local Government Engineering Department and financed from government's own resources.

In the first phase of the project, bricks laying work of two and a half-kilometre of the road will be implemented within the current financial year at a cost of Taka nine lakh.

On completion of the project, road communication between Daulatpur and Dumuria thana headquarters via Solua will be convenient and easier. Besides, a number of hat-bazar and growth centres will be connected through this road.

Addressing a meeting on the occasion, Ashraf Hossain called upon the people, particularly those of rural areas to

properly utilize the rural road communication facilities for revitalising economic activities to improve their condition.

He reiterated that opportunities were being created by the government for the common masses for their economic emancipation and poverty alleviation.

Earlier, Md Ashraf Hossain inaugurated the final competition of the Kalipada Memorial Cricket Tournament at Dumuria Juba Sangha ground.

A week-long drama festival began at the Khulna railway auditorium on Wednesday under the auspices of Khulna Shilpkala Academy.

Jatiya Sangsad Whip Ashraf Hossain formally inaugurated the festival. It was presided over by the president of Khulna Zila Shilpkala Academy and Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Kazi Reazul Huq. The inaugural function was addressed among others by Prof Anwarul Kadir.

District roundup

PATUAKHALI

Work hard to rehabilitate destitute people

Apr 4: Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali called upon the personnel of Islamic Mission to work with dedication to provide free medical service and rehabilitate the destitute people of the society.

In a rally of the Freedom Fighters' belonging to the Nikli and Baziput police stations was held at Shararchar Bazar recently, reports BSS.

M R Akhtar Mukul, a Freedom Fighter synonymous to the popular Charaputra, a commentary of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, was the chief guest at the rally.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Alauddin Haq former Freedom Fighters' commanders were also present in the rally.

Matiur Rahman, a union parishad chairman presided over the rally.

Speakers called upon the Freedom Fighters to uphold the spirit of the liberation and work for the progress and prosperity of Bangladesh.

KISHOREGANJ

Freedom Fighters' rally held

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CHITTAGONG

Public awareness needed to reduce fire incidents

Apr 4: Necessary training about the use of modern appliances alongwith public awareness is required to combat fire accidents. Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al-Noman said here Saturday.

He was addressing as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week at Agrabad here Saturday. Mayor of Chittagong A B M Mohiuddin Ahmed spoke as the special guest.

"Most of the fire accidents occur due to carelessness and as a result a huge national property is being damaged by fire every year", Noman observed.

The function was also addressed by former Warden Kamal A Khan with the Deputy Director of the Fire Services Mohammad Ali Khan in the chair.

A gang of dacoits swooped on several shops at Kalairhat in Boalkhali thana and robbed Taka more than nine lakh injuring four shopkeepers on Sunday night.

Witnesses said, the dacoits numbering about 25 stormed into the hat firing gunshots indiscriminately and looted cash from the shops.

Seriously injured Mabut Sardar was admitted to the local health complex.

PABNA

Body of housewife exhumed

Apr 4: Police exhumed the body of a housewife from Arifpur graveyard at the town Sunday after nine days of her burial, reports UNB.

The dead, identified as Rokeya Sultana, wife of Golam Mahmud, reportedly known as a Pir Shahab, received burn injuries on March 12 and succumbed to injuries at her residence on March 26.

Rojy Ferdous, Sub-Editor, Dainik Janata, sister of the victim alleged that Rokeya was killed by her husband. On the basis of her allegation police exhumed the body for autopsy.

A four-member medical team conducted the autopsy Sunday afternoon.

MYMENSINGH

Improved road network can change economy

Apr 4: Communications Minister, Oli Ahmed Sunday said, the government is committed to bring about a marked change in the field of communication, reports UNB.

"An improved communication network can contribute a lot to the economic development of a country", the minister said while addressing a public meeting at the local thana parishad premises, Sunday afternoon.

Presided over by local BNP leader Nurul Haq, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Anwarul Hossain Khan Chowdhury, MP, former Minister Justice TH Khan, Dr Mohammad Ali, Abul Bashar Akhund and Advocate Fazlul Haq.

The practical examination session 1989-90 of part III B Sc AG (Hons.) examination of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) will be held on April 5 (Tuesday) instead of May 02, says a press release of the university.

The cancelled part III theoretical examination of plant pathology at BAU centre will be held on April 26 instead of April 23, the press release added.

No water available even from deep tubewells

RAMGATI (Lakshmpur), Apr 4: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in Ramgati thana causing great suffering to the rural people for quite a long time, reports UNB.

Local people said, almost all the ponds, canals and ditches in the locality have been drying up and no water is available from the deep tubewells as the ground water level has fallen further.

More than 50 per cent of existing shallow and hand driven tubewells have gone out of order. Hence the drinking water scarcity is taking a serious turn day by day, they added.

People of the Char Bashan, Char Kalkini, Char Thika, Char Kalakopa, Char Martin, Char Sekandar, Char Neamat, Balun Char, Char Krishnapur, Char Poragacha, Azad Nagar, Char Jangala are the worst sufferers.

Water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and cholera are the common features in the locality which claimed hundreds of lives in the last year due to intake of impure water.

According to reports, fire originated from a kitchen.

Development projects on progress in Barisal

BARISAL, Apr 4: The reexcavation work of two canals measuring about 16 kilometres in two thanas of Barisal district has been progressing fast, reports BSS.

According to relief and rehabilitation office sources, government sanctioned 315 metric tons of wheat for the implementation of these projects during the current dry season. The projects included Lukutia canal of about 10 kilometres long and Dhopai canal of about seven kilometres long. Meanwhile, about 35 per cent work has already been completed.

Over 500 men and women have been working on the projects every day. A total of 2,19,508 cubic metres of earth will be removed from these canals.

Barisal paurashava has been implementing six projects of repairing and reconstruction

of roads during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, T