

**One killed, 3 hurt in Ctg road mishap**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 5: One woman was killed and three others were injured, one of them critically, when an auto-rickshaw and a truck collided head on at Munshi Pukurpar on Chittagong-Nazirhat road here today, reports BSS.

According to district police Shahana Begum along with her family members was going to Maizbhandar Fatukchhari by an auto rickshaw. A speeding truck coming from opposite direction hit the auto-rickshaw killing Shahana Begum, 45, on the spot and injuring three others.

Critically injured Dulari Begum was admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital, sources said. Two others were released after first aid.

The drivers of the vehicles managed to flee, the sources said.

**4 housewives commit suicide**

From Our Correspondent  
BARISAL, Apr 5: Four housewives committed suicide in the district during last two weeks.

One Sonabaru, 33, of Charbadna committed suicide hanging herself with a rope on Tuesday last. Another Firoja Begum, 37, of Maluhar village of Banaripara thana committed suicide by taking poison on 15th March. One, Kohinur Begum, 45, a housewife committed suicide at Hosnabad village under Muladi thana also by taking poison and another housewife, Kohinor Begum, 28 of Soina village of sadar thana committed suicide by taking pesticide on 16th of March last.

**Rickshaw knocked down, puller killed on the spot**

From Our Correspondent  
SYLHET, Apr 5: A rickshawpuller was run over by a minibus at Lauwari of suburb of the town Saturday night. Traffic movement in the road was stopped for about two hours by the agitated people just after the accident took place.

According to the police, the accident occurred at about 8-30 pm Saturday. The killer vehicle (Chittagong JA-9341) knocked down the rickshaw from behind. The rickshawpuller, Shahidul Islam, 25 died on the spot. He hailed from Bogra, informed a source.

Police took the vehicle into their custody while the driver managed to escape just after the incident. A case has been registered with the Kotwali PS.

**150 people selected for Hajj from Tangail dist**

TANGAIL, Apr 5: A total of one hundred and five persons have been selected to perform Hajj under the government arrangement from Tangail district during this current season, reports BSS.

Official sources said, medical and other necessary formalities are being completed for their journey to Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile Islamic Foundation, Tangail district branch, has been distributing seven hundred copies of the holy Quran, translated in Bengali, free of cost among the journalists, teachers, lawyers, religious leaders, students, political leaders and elite of the district.

By the time, 40 copies for Tangail Press Club, 30 copies for Kumudini Mahila College, 30 copies for Alla and Dhulcher madrasahs have been supplied.

**Development works of educational institutions in progress**

JAMALPUR, Apr 5: The Facilities Department under Ministry of Education has been implementing 33 projects at an estimated cost of Taka 5.5 crore in seven thanas of the district during the current financial year.

The projects are located in Jamalpur sadar, Sarishabari, Melandah, Bakshiganj, Islampur and Dewanganj thanas.

The projects will be implemented with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The projects include construction of four college science buildings, 24 non-government primary schools, secondary school, madrasahs, and development of two non-government colleges.

Meanwhile, one hundred bundles of CI sheets were distributed by Serajul Haq, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare among the villagers in Jamalpur sadar thana recently.

**Situation static in Sylhet region**  
**Flash flood damages boro crops on 2 lakh hectares**

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Apr 5: Incessant rainfall and on rush of water from the upper stream of Indian hills have damaged the standing boro crops of the greater Sylhet region.

The overall situation remains static till today as there has been a recession of rains for the last 24 hours.

According to the reports, boro crops on more than 2 lakh hectares of land went under water in the region. It includes, one lakh hectares in Sunamganj district only and the rest in Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet. About 20 per cent crops may be saved if the situation improves immediately, said the officials.

The extent of damage has been estimated at Taka thirty crore. The Sunamganj district is the worst-hit area. Badly affected thanas in the district are: Sullia, Dharampasha, Jamalganj, Dorai, Jagannathpur, Chhatak, Doarabazar and Madhyannagar.

Heavy onrush of waters from the hilly areas had inundated the vast tracts of 'crop-lands'. In many areas, the situation worsened following the breaches in the embankments in the haors.

Industries Minister A M Jahiruddin Khan visited some

of the affected areas last week. While talking to the people in Jamaiganj and Chhatak thanas, he assured them of taking necessary steps to extend all possible help.

He also distributed some relief materials and cash money among the victims.

A total of 24 mm rains was recorded in Sunamganj district during the last 8 days, said an official source.

Prices of different essential commodities have shot up due to the flash flood. Prices of rice have also increased in the remote areas during the last few days.

Immediate steps should be taken up to sell rice in the rural bazars and at thana headquarters at fixed prices under the OMS (Open Market Sale) programme of the Food Department. It is widely felt.

The department has arranged the sale of only 34 mts of rice in Derai, Sullia, Jagannathpur and Tahripur thanas under the OMS. In some areas, poor farmers started selling their bullocks due to the acute shortage of fodder for the last few days.

Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Parliament Abdus Samad Azad and Ganatantrik Party leader Suranjit Sengupta

MP visited some affected areas on Sunday.

A meeting was arranged in the Sunamganj Circuit House on Sunday night. Samad Azad in his speech called upon the government to declare the district a 'distressed area'. He said, lakhs of people in the haor areas have become distressed as they have lost the only cash crop due to the flash floods.

They have lost almost all their belongings because of the natural calamities those have hit them seriously for the last few years regularly, he said.

He also called for immediate arrangement for selling of rice at fixed prices to keep the market price stable and to take immediate necessary steps to save the embankments which had been threatened by the flood waters.

The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Suranjit Sengupta MP, Nazir Hossain MP, Abdij Jahur MP, Abdul Majid MP, Prasun Kanti Roy (Barun Roy) ex-MP, Advocate Fazul Haque Aspia, convenor district NAP and Advocate Rafiqul Bari.

The Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Kamal Uddin gave a picture of the present flood situation of the district.

**Massive aus, aman farming plan**

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Apr 5: A comprehensive programme has been taken up to bring about 6.26 lakh hectares of land under aus and aman paddy cultivation in 16 northern districts during the current season.

Over 14 lakh metric tons of paddy is likely to be produced in this region.

The 16 districts are divided into two zones - Rajshahi and Rangpur. The break-up of the production is as follows:

About 23 thousand metric tons of aus paddy is expected to be produced on 14.8 thousand hectares of land in Natore. Over 45 thousand mts of paddy on 32 thousand hectares of land in Rajshahi.

Nearly 42 thousand mts of paddy on 39 thousand hectares of land in Chapainawabganj.

About 19,200 mts of paddy on 2,200 hectares of land in Bogra, 12,500 mts of paddy on over 6,500 hectares of land in Joypurhat, 46 thousand mts of paddy on 43 thousand hectares of land in Pabna and 14 thousand mts of paddy on 2.20 thousand hectares of land in Shrirangjan districts.

A total of 99 thousand mts of paddy is expected on over

62 thousand hectares of land in Rangpur, 19 thousand mts of paddy on about 11.50 thousand hectares of land in Gaibandha.

More than 56 thousand mts of paddy on over 50 thousand hectares of land in Kurigram, 36 thousand mts of paddy on about 30 thousand hectares of land in Lalmonirhat.

About 94 thousand mts of paddy on over 47 thousand hectares of land in Nilphamari, 78 thousand mts of paddy on about 43 thousand hectares of land in Dinajpur, 34 thousand mts of paddy on 30 thousand hectares of land in Panchagarh and 33.50 thousand mts of paddy is expected on about 18 thousand hectares of land in Thakurgaon districts.

Besides, about 4.50 lakh metric tons and 2.85 lakh metric tons of aman paddy is expected to be produced on about 1.50 lakh hectares and about 4,444 hectares of land in Rajshahi and Rangpur zones respectively.

Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department in this region will help the paddy farmers with seeds, pesticides,

fertilizers necessary agri-inputs to achieve production target.

Another report says: Most of the day labours and members of low income group of Natore are now passing hard days as the prices of rice have been increased in the markets of the district.

It is learnt that there is no work in rural areas have for the day labours at present.

According to Relief and Rehabilitation office sources, only 20 per cent of projects are being implemented under Food for Work Programme during the current financial year.

Rice is being sold at Taka 14 to Taka 16 in the markets of rural areas of Natore.

About 60 per cent of the poor people are passing hard days as there is no income source.

Local day labour and farmer organisations have urged upon the government to start more projects under Food for Works Programme.

It is reported that Food Department here has started to sell rice in open market to remove the food crisis.

**Six get life-term for murder**

COMILLA, Apr 5: Six people were awarded rigorous imprisonment for life with a fine of Taka 1000, in default, to suffer another year for murder, reports UNB.

The convicts are Kazi Abdur Rashid, Shova Mia, Abdul Malek, Abdul Khaleq, Rafiqul Islam and Shah Jalal. The court also acquitted five others.

The case, in brief, was that an army personnel Kazi Serajul Islam was attacked and killed on June 27, 1991 by the accused people following a previous enmity while he was visiting a tank at Joopur village in Charidina thana owned by a cooperative samity. He came home on leave.

A case was filed and after investigation, police submitted charge sheet against eleven people.

After examining the evidences and records Additional Sessions Judge, First Court, Md Nurul Wadud delivered the judgement on March 29.

The prosecution was conducted by APP Advocate Tajul

Islam while advocate Sharafat Ali appeared for the defence.

Another report adds: Three alleged dacoits and two thieves were arrested by police in two separate raids in Chunarchar and Karakandi villages in Homna thana last week.

Following a tip-off, police rounded up three dacoits while they were snatching belongings of the pedestrians near Chunarchar on Alipur-Homna road. Police also recovered looted goods from their possession.

The arrested dacoits are Abdul Baten, 45, Abdul Hakim 35 and Badal Mia 29 of Bagmara village.

In another raid Jamaluddin and Ismail were arrested in connection with a theft in Homna thana headquarters.

Another report adds: The prize-giving ceremony of Fakir Bazar High School was held on Thursday at the school premises.

The prizes were distributed by ex-member of the Planning Commission A T M Shamsul

Haque as chief guest. Director of Under Privileged Children Education Programme, Dr Ahmedullah Mia was present as guest of honour.

The function was largely attended by teachers, students and local elite.

**Agri fair held**

A two-day agricultural exhibition organised by Agricultural Extension Department of Comilla was concluded on March 30.

Held at the premises of Barera Primary School in Chandina thana, the fair was attended by Deputy Director of Agricultural Extension Department Fazul Karim Dewan as chief guest.

Several stalls were set up and individual farmers took part in the fair with their products. Thousands of people of various sections visited the fair.

The concluding function was addressed, among others, thana agricultural officers and district officials. Prizes were distributed among the best stalls and the winner farmers.



MYMENSINGH: Dr M A Majid, Director, Fisheries Research Institute and Dr Ashraf Ali, ex-VC of BAU releasing fish fry in pond here recently. - Star photo



Prof R I Chowdhury, VC, Chittagong University is exchanging views on research programme with Dr Michael Geoffery Fitton of the Natural History Museum and Dr Donald Quicke of Imperial College, London, UK in the office chamber of the VC during their visit here. - CU photo

**Crop output falls as soil fertility declines**

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 5: Deficiency of minerals in soil has adversely affected crop production in the district.

According to agriculture experts, about 70 per cent of the farm land in the region lack minimum required amount of minerals like sulphur, potassium, zinc, sodium, nitrogen. Shortage of such important minerals in the soil reduces soil fertility, consequently, affecting production potential of that particular crop land.

Farmers who have been growing various types of crops admit that they have noticed gradual reduction in crop output.

Experts of the local agriculture department have identified excess use of chemical fertilizer as the prime cause of efficiency of minerals in the soil. "Farmers heavily rely on use of chemical fertilizer on their crop land to get maximum output", said one official of agriculture department. "Natural fertilizer has no alternative. Plants grow healthier if not faster," he added.

Cowdung, the most popular natural fertilizer has lost its popularity and instead, it is being used as fuel as dried cake in brick field factories an other similar places. Bio-degraded leaves and other familiar substances having biological chemical potential can be used as other sources of natural fertilizers.

Nitrogen, an important organic component required by plants, is present in soil through use of such natural fertilizer. However, inorganic components replace this and continuous use of chemical fertilizer retards many biological function of a plant.

Zinc, sulphur, potassium, sodium and similar substances help in respiratory system and process of photosynthesis of a plant.

Farmers grow fewer quantity of jute, paddy and vegetables during last few years in this district, says a source of agriculture department.

Farmers must be encouraged to use nature fertilizers to raise crop output.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: The students of Monnujap Hall of the varsity donating blood on the Independence Day. - Star photo

**Mango production may fall this year**

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 5: The production of mango is likely to be decreased this year in the district for unfavourable situation.

It has been observed that production of mango decreases in every alternate year in Chuadanga district.

During last year, huge mangoes were produced in the district, but in the previous year mango production was insufficient in the district.

This year buds were seen very few in the mango trees of the district. There were also budless mango trees.

The quality mangoes like Bombay, Langra, Fozli, Himshagar and Kantcha Mtha are produced in huge quantity in Chuadanga district.

There are about 100,000 mango trees on 4,000 acres of land in Chuadanga district which are on the homesteads and in some gardens. It is found that only 30 to 40 per cent buds blossomed in the trees during the current season.

The average per acre mango yield in favourable climate condition is 8 metric tons in the district.

During last year, about 35 thousand metric tons of mangoes were produced in the district but this year the production may be decreased by 15 thousand metric tons.

The mango experts of local Agricultural Extension Department opined that though the situation is not favourable the production of mango in the district may remain the same as attack of insects is less.

The prices of all kinds of mangoes will be much higher in the district this year and Indian mangoes might flood the local markets, it is apprehended.

Another report says: Absence of fire stations at three thana headquarters of Chuadanga districts, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibanagar thanas causing heavy losses in these areas every year.

Alamdanga and Jibanagar are the most important business centres of the district and Darsana under Damurhuda thana is a very important pourashava town.

Residential houses, government offices, industrial and business shops, hotels and different kinds of houses have been built haphazardly.

Every year fire breaks out there and burns residential houses, business.

**Two Sarbaharamen held with arms**

KHULNA, Apr 5: Police arrested two members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party from Golaikhal village in Paikgachha thana of the district Saturday night and recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition from their possession, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided a house and arrested Kalam, 32, and Rashed, 30, of the village.

The recovered arms included two countrymade guns, one pipe gun, one revolver, 10 live bullet and 4 sharp knives.

**District roundup**

**MALDEE COURT**

**Bidi factory owners adopting unfair means**

Apr 5: The government is being deprived of huge amount of revenue due to adoption of malpractice by the owners of bidi factories of the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, the factory owners do not use bandrolls in their usual practice on bidi packets which they supply to the retailers.

As a result, bidi without bandrolls are being sold unabatedly in almost all shops in every thanas of the district before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

However, in many cases, it has been found that the factory workers use old bandrolls collected from shops to evade tax. But no action has yet been taken against them.

**KHULNA**

**No question of politics in development activities**

Apr 5: The Mayor of Khulna, Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, Monday said, there would be no politics in question of development of the city and urged all the Commissioners to work unitedly to fulfill their election pledge to the city-men, says UNB.

"The city has to be transformed into a beautiful and modern one through united efforts," he told the newly elected commissioners in his first meeting with them in the city corporation conference hall.

He said, the city dwellers had elected them to build a beautiful town by solving various problems.

"The elected commissioners are the motive force of all development activities and we have to work unitedly for the welfare of the people."

The commissioners pointed out different problems of their wards in the port city.

**TANGAIL**

**Lady commissioners take oath**

Apr 5: Tahmina Mahbub, Noorjahan Begum and Begum Majeda Khaton took oath as the lady commissioners of Tangail pourashava on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner of Tangail Abdul Matin Khondaker administered the oath of office in a simple ceremony attended by the elite of the town. Shamsul Huq Chairman and others commissioners of the pourashava were present in the function.

Speaking on the occasion the Deputy Commissioner expressed the hope that the lady members would discharge their responsibilities towards the people of the pourashava honestly and sincerely.

**BARISAL**

**Schoolboy crushed under wheels**

Apr 5: A schoolboy was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Kumarkhal bridge in Nalchiti thana of Jhalokati district Monday, reports UNB.

Police said Aminul Islam Babu, 15, a student of class X of Timirkati High School, died instantly when a Barisal-bound bus ran over him while trying to board it at about 9:30 am.

Witnesses said, Babu and some of his friends tried to get on the bus near the bridge, but its helper barred them. Defying helper's resistance he boarded the bus when the helper allegedly knocked him down.

The driver and his helper managed to flee after reaching Barisal.

A case has been filed with Nalchiti thana.

**CHITTAGONG**

**Results of scholarship exams published**

Apr 5: The results of scholarship examinations-1993 conducted by Banskhal Foundation, Chittagong from primary to secondary level were published recently, reports BSS.

According to a foundation press release on Sunday over three hundred students from seventy educational institutions of Banskhal thana appeared at the examination held on December 25, 1993.

Among them, two female students have got talentpool scholarship, two students have got first grade, while one secured second grade. The foundation has decided to give scholarship to 39 students in order to encourage the students to prosecute their study.

The foundation will formally distribute stipend and certificates among the scholarship winners at a later date, the press release added.

**SIRAJGANJ**

**Extortionists' bail prayer rejected**

Apr 5: Two alleged extortionists were sent to jail after Kamarkhand Thana Magistrate rejected their bail petitions Monday, reports UNB.

Police said, the accused Sanowar Hossain and Al-Mahmud of Chakshahabajpur village had demanded Taka 20,000 as toll from their co-villager Hazi Nowsher Ali on March 8 last.

They also assaulted Nowsher's brother, Sher Ali Sarker, 70 to press their illegal demand.

Nowsher filed a case against the accused and they surrendered to the thana magistrate on March 31.

Magistrate TRM Mutaquul Huq ordered to send them to jail rejecting their bail petitions Monday.

**CHUADANGA**

**Problems at PCO manifold**

Apr 5: The Chuadanga Public Call Office (PCO) has been beset with manifold problems for a long time, reports UNB.

According to subscribers, the PCO is housed in a two-storied building having family accommodation of the telegraph master in the first floor. The ground floor consisting of three rooms is being used as office.

The office is in dilapidated condition which lacks proper sitting arrangement and other facilities including public toilet and drinking water.

Moreover, the Jentex machine has gone out of order for about a month and the T&T has been informed to restore the machine to ease the suffering of the customers.

**PABNA**

**Contraband goods seized, three held**

Apr 5: Narcotics Department arrested three people and seized 1,809 bottles of Indian phenylidyl syrup worth about taka four lakh from their possession from a bus at Gachhpara in the town Sunday night, police said here Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, the Narcotics Department officials raided the Dhaka-bound passenger bus coming from Rajshahi and arrested Md. Imtiaz Ali, 30, Nazimuddin 30 and Bazal 22 with the contrabands.