

**Train derails
20 hurt**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: Two bogies of the university shuttle train derailed Tuesday afternoon near Bibirhat, 3 km from the city, injuring about 20 students, reports UNB.
Rail Control Room sources said, train communications remained disrupted for five hours since 4:25 pm in the Chittagong-Nazirhat route.
Panic-stricken students jumped out of the compartments and got injured, witnesses said. All of them took first aid.

**MMCH students
demand removal
of professor**

From Our Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Apr 6: Students of Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital today gave a 48-hour ultimatum for removal of Asyia Khatun, Associate Professor of the Gynaecology Department of the college.
Students under the Banner of the General Students' Council also threatened to shut down the hospital if their demand was not met within the deadline.

The warning came at a press conference of the students who had been boycotting classes since March 27 demanding removal of Prof Asyia on charge of corruption, misconduct and negligence of duty.

**Notes from
Khulna**

KHULNA, Apr 6: A week-long Basata Mela was held at the Khulna Zila School ground recently under the auspices of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), reports BSS.

The exhibition was designed to popularise local handicrafts. It was inaugurated by the Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman. The inaugural function was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Khulna Kazi Reazul Huq. It was addressed among others by the Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Muktadir Chowdhury and Project Director of BSCIC Abdul Latif Mondal.

The city mayor underscored the need for extending facilities to the rural artists to engage them in handicrafts making.

**Fire Service, Civil
Defence Week**

Fire Service and Civil Defence Week '94 was inaugurated Saturday at the Khulna Divisional Fire Service headquarters at Boyra. The Divisional Commissioner Abdul Muktadir Chowdhury inaugurated the week.

It was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Khulna Kazi Reazul Huq.
Speaking on the occasion the Divisional Commissioner underscored the need for making the people more conscious about fire that cause damage to life and property and to take special care about measures for preventing causes leading to fire. Fire fighting equipments were put on display on the occasion.

**Mass wedding
function**

A mass wedding function for six girl inmates of Government Children's Home was held here recently under auspices of Social Welfare Department.

Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman attended the function. A large number of relations, friends and well-wishers of the brides were present in the function.

The function was attended among others by Director General of Social Welfare Directorate A T M Gias Uddin, Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Muktadir Chowdhury and the Deputy Commissioner Khulna Kazi Reazul Huq.

It may be mentioned here that these inmates during their stay in the sadan were imparted various vocational training. They were presented with various gifts like sewing machine.

**Contraband goods
seized**

A UNB report says: Bangladesh Rifles, Khulna Sector, seized contraband goods worth Taka five crore in different raids during the last three months.

The goods included Indian Saree, cattlehead, cloths, bicycles and its spares, salt, sugar, spices and cosmetics.

A total of 1848 cases was filed with different police stations during the same period.

Another report from Naogaon adds that police arrested one Lutfur Rahman (28) with one country-made pistol from Kasunda village of Atrai thana.

Acting on a secret information, police raided his house and managed to arrest him on March 26. A case has been filed in this connection.



SYLHET: A day-long sit-in was staged at the approach road of Sylhet Osmany Airport on Sunday. Greater Sylhet Ganadabi Parishad called it as a part of the 'Biman boycott' programme for immediate formation of Sylhet division.

Diarrhoea kills 37 people in a week

NAOGAON, Apr 6: Diarrhoea claimed 36 lives and attacked several hundreds others in five thanas of the district during the last week, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

The affected thanas are: Raninagar, Atrai, Sadar, Niamatpur and Mohadebpur.
According to medical sources, 20 medical teams have been working in the affected areas to combat the spread of the disease. Consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water were said to be the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

Meanwhile, scarcity of pure water is prevailing in the affected areas as most of the tubewells have been rendered inoperative due to further fall of ground water level during the current dry season. Local people said installation of more tara pumps sets can solve the problem.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to supply more oral saline packets and other necessary medicines to combat the situation.

**Shed at bus
terminal needed**

Another report says: Passengers here are facing manifold problems due to lack of sheds at the Naogaon Bus Terminal.

Passengers of different thanas including Mohadebpur,

Badalgachhi, Sadar, Patnitola and Niamatpur have complained that they are to wait for a long time at the bus terminal for buses and coaches under the open sky.

Suffering of the passengers becomes acute during the summer and rainy seasons. Children, women, old and sick people are the worst sufferers.

Besides, the terminal lacks basic amenities causing untold suffering to the travelling people. The terminal remains dirty all the time and the situation turns worse during the rainy season. In the absence of adequate urinals and latrines the passenger have to undergo a lot of trouble.

Local people demanded of the authorities to construct the sheds at the terminal immediately and provide basic amenities to ease the suffering of the passengers.

**Bridge over Chhoto
Jamuna demanded**

Meanwhile, the people of Raninagar thana in the district are facing trouble due to absence of a bridge over the Chhoto Jamuna river at Tinmuhani village.

Villagers said at present hundreds of school going children and office staff are compelled to cross the river by country boats to attend their classes and offices risking

their life.
Besides, the business and traders community have been suffering a lot to transport their goods during the rainy season.

It may be mentioned that only 30 miles long Zila Board Road over the river which connected Bandaighara village of Atrai thana to Abadpukur village of Raninagar thana in now being metalled.

Local elite said the bridge over the river at the point would contribute much for the development of agriculture adding that commercial activities of the area would also get further boost for the benefit of the common people.

Local villagers urged the government to take necessary steps for the construction of the proposed bridge over the river without further delay.

**Top priority to
development**

A BSS report adds: State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said the government was endeavouring hard for consolidating democracy for over all socio-economic development of the country.

He was addressing a public meeting at Mohadebpur Jahangir Nagar Model High School premises while inaugurating the construction work of a new road of Mohadebpur

Bazar at a cost of Taka 23 lakh 65 thousand.

He said, when the BNP government had attached top priority to all round development of the country and strengthened democracy and when foreign entrepreneurs were eager to invest, then some vested quarters were trying to spoil the efforts with activities like walk out in parliament and strikes and announcement of some agitation programmes.

The State Minister for Planning called for resisting the design of vested quarters and come forward for accelerating the people oriented schemes and projects like mass education, canal digging, road construction, health facilities, rural electrification programmes adopted by the BNP government.

Presided over by Mohadebpur thana BNP Convener Ramjan Ali, the function was addressed among others, by Aktar Hamid Siddique MP, Mohadebpur Chhatradal President and Secretary Sirajul Islam and Sajjad Hossain respectively and Badalgachhi thana BNP President Azizul Haque Sardar.

The state minister also addressed several road side meetings and another public meeting at Muthurapur union Senpura Non-government Primary School premises.

**Fish production declines as
water bodies lying uncultivated**

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Apr 6: Production of fish in different water bodies in the district has fallen.

This sudden shortfall in fish production has, obviously, greatly affected the local fish market which was once an important fish trading centre. Hundreds of tons of fishes like ruhi, katla, pangus, boal, and many more used to be exported. The production of these species of fish has abnormally fallen. Catch of fish in recent time from various ponds, lakes, haors and river Madhumati has declined as against previous catch records. Most of the water bodies, private or public, lack proper maintenance facilities. Except few exceptions, all the ponds, haors, lakes have remained untouched for years. Re-excavation work is badly needed as most of the ponds have been silted.

Lack of technology is another factor for reduction of fish output in the area. Nutrition is a vital part of growth stage. Fish farmers do not, in general, follow proper procedures of feeding the fish. This has greatly contributed to such sudden drop in fish production from the area, says one official of the Fisheries Department.

Many of the fish farmers are also found catching fish fry. This illegal practice will certainly add to such misery, says another official.

However, many fish farmers have shown interest to gain knowledge on various aspects of fish production, culture or reproduction, nutrition, disease control etc. Technology transfer is an important part of raising fish output from the district," says the official.

In the meantime, further measures have been taken to prohibit catching of fish fry and punishment will be given to those who violate the laws.

The Gopalganj-Kashiani and Gopalganj-Kotwalipara roads are in bad shape.

The roads are vital linkages for the people of Kashiani and Kotwalipara thanas. The Gopalganj-Kashiani Road starts from Bhatiapara and passes through Boalmari thana via Kashiani bazar, Chaptta Bazar, Ghonapara, Gopinathpur, Chandradighalla and Hariduspur.

The 20 kilometer-long Gopalganj-Kotwalipara Road has not yet been smoothed for vehicular traffic movement as large portion of the road is made of earth.

Business of the area is severely hampered as the roads remain in deplorable condition.
A number of important

markets on both sides of these roads carry out business. Agriculture products, cattle and other goods are transported to and from different markets through these roads.

Due to lack of proper maintenance and repair works, the roads have further been damaged. Moreover, flood waters affect the roads every year. Numerous potholes, wide breaches have developed at many points all of which add to the misery. Use of rickshaws, carts, vehicles are difficult on the road.

During the rainy season, the condition of the roads worsens and the communication of said areas becomes disrupted.

The Compulsory Primary Education Programme has been facing problems due to shortage of teachers in many areas of the district. As a result, students are deprived from proper education.

Shortage of teachers is acute in those schools situated in remote areas. In many schools only two to three teachers are engaged for relatively a large number of eager students.

It is noticed that teachers, specially female, are interested to be assigned in pourashava and thana areas rather than in remote villages where communication is poor.

**Shortage of
text books,
edn hampered**

JESSORE, Apr 6: Education is being hampered greatly in all the high schools of Sarsa thana of the district due to shortage of text books, reports UNB.

Guardians informed that books sellers have enhanced the prices of books taking advantage of short supply which is beyond their purchasing capacity.

They also complained that the book traders are reluctant to receive new supply on the plea that the old stocks are yet to be exhausted. And thus creating artificial scarcity they have already enhanced the prices in the market.

The teachers alleged that due to flaw in distribution system of the text books the book sellers are taking undue advantage hampering education in the thana.

District roundup

PATUAKHALI

**Portions of
road to be
constructed**

Apr 6: Some portions of the Barguna-Bakerganj road will be reconstructed during the current fiscal, official, sources here said, reports UNB.

According to the Roads and Highways Department, Taka 3.05 lakh has been sanctioned for the development of the road covering Barguna-Subidkhal-Kathalia-Kanki-Bakerganj areas.

Necessary work order will be issued soon to start the work. Local people have been urging the government to develop the road as cracks and potholes have developed at the many points of the road hampering the movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

With the reconstruction of the road, communication system in the areas will be developed to a great extent.

JAMALPUR

**Rice, soyabean
prices up**

Apr 6: Prices of different varieties of rice and soyabean oil have shot up in the last one week in the local market, reports UNB.

Per kg Pajjam rice is now being sold at Taka 14 as against Taka 12 and course rice per kg is selling at Taka 12 as against Taka 10.

The price of soyabean oil has also been increased by Taka 8 per litre which is now being sold at Taka 46.

District Food Department sources said they could not sell rice at fair prices in the open market due to inadequate stock in the government godown.

MYMENSINGH

**Varsity officers'
assoc postpones
abstention
programme**

From Our Correspondent
Apr 6: The Bangladesh Inter-University Officers' Federation has postponed its 15 days work abstention programme scheduled to be started on April 3.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Standing Committee of the Federation held at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) premises on March 30.

Earlier, the Standing Committee met Prof. Dr Md Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor, BUET at his office and discussed matters relating to revision of the down-graded pay scales of the University Officers following the meetings of the Ministry of Education and the Association of Universities in Bangladesh (AUB).

MAGURA

**People urged
to eradicate
illiteracy**

Apr 6: Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majidul Huq Tuesday urged the people to help eradicate the curse of illiteracy from society, reports UNB.

He said, the government has undertaken extensive education programmes to remove illiteracy from the country and called on all to properly utilise the government facilities.

The Minister was addressing the inaugural functions of two newly constructed primary school buildings — Abalpur Govt Free Primary School and Hazrapur Non-Government Free Primary School — in Magura sadar thana.

The two school buildings were constructed at a cost of Taka 20.92 lakh by the Facilities Department of the government.

The present government has given maximum emphasis on education, Majidul Huq said. "But actual national development can not be achieved without completely wiping out illiteracy from society."

**Peaceful democratic atmosphere
a must for foreign investment**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: Manzur Morshed Khan, Special Envoy to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday said that a peaceful democratic atmosphere was indispensable for attracting foreign investment as well as economic development of the country, reports BSS.

He said, foreign investors and aid givers consider security of their investment and proper utilisation of the aid before they come in Bangladesh, he added.

Speaking as chief guest at a reception held in his honour under the auspices of Boalkhal thana branch of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity at the local dakbungalow premises on Monday afternoon, Manzur Morshed stressed the need for united and peaceful efforts of the people to attract foreign investment as well as well aid, for much needed industrialisation of the country. Democratic atmosphere, tolerance, discipline in fields and factories are wanted by the donors and investors, he further added.

The reception held under the chairmanship of the samity President Mojahidul Islam was also addressed by Serajul Islam MP, Syed Wahidul Alam MP, BNP leader Ahmad Khalil

Khan, Boalkhal Press Club President Zakir Hussain and Advocate Ebadullah.

Morshed Khan regretted that some opposition political parties had resorted to unconstitutional means to thwart democratisation process of the country achieved through a hard struggle of long nine years. When there is an elected parliament in the country no one should take to the street to seek solution to one's problem, he said adding opposition parties should go to parliament for solution of their problems.

He said that the country needed peace and development for building a better future for the nation.

Lauding the role of journalists in national development and moulding public opinion in favour of the same he said that country's newsmen were enjoying full freedom and they could put forward constructive suggestions for national development.

Commenting on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's recent visit to Japan, he said that a very favourable atmosphere had been created among Japanese investors for investing in Bangladesh. We will have to keep up the tempo among the Japanese investors

by ensuring security of their capital, he added.

Another report says: Chittagong City Mayor Al-Haj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury on Monday underscored the importance of imparting proper primary education for increasing the literacy rate of the country.

The mayor was speaking as chief guest at the prize giving ceremony of Pahartali T P P Primary and Junior High School here Monday afternoon.

Presided over by Sayed Habibur Rahman, Senior Officer of Bangladesh Railway East Zone, the function was attended by Chairman of the Chittagong Development Authority Lt. Col (Retd) Ziauddin and local elite.

The mayor said educated youths of the country could be turned into human resources and as such it is the education which could free the nation from the curse of poverty and illiteracy.

Chowdhury said he would bear the educational expenses of the student who will occupy first place from class one to class eight.

Later the mayor gave away the prizes among the students of the school.

**Pourashava plans to
execute 16 projects**

MAIJDIEE COURT (Noakhali), Apr 6: Noakhali Municipal authority has taken up a plan to execute 16 projects of earth filling and road reconstruction at a cost of Taka 39 lakh, reports UNB.

The amount will be received from the government as special grant for the development of roads including old hospital road and earth filling in several areas to facilitate the transport movement.

Most of the roads are in bad shape and cracks and potholes have developed at many points hampering the movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

Waters remain stagnant at many points and after a slight rainfall the roads become muddy and slippery risking the movement of vehicles.

Moreover, the municipal authority will also implement two other projects — one for municipal office building and renovation of its auditorium at a cost of Taka 12 lakh and another for construction of Sonapur municipal market at a cost of Taka 14 lakh.

The projects are expected to be completed by June next.

Another report adds: Majidiee Girls Academy is beset with manifold problems including shortage of teachers

and educational appliances.

Established in 1965, the school is running without a full-fledged headmistress for the last nine years. Moreover, the existing staff is quite inadequate to run the school smoothly. Besides, shortage of accommodation and furniture is also hampering the academic activities of the school.

It may be mentioned that the headmistress of the school was removed for corruption and misappropriation of school funds nine years back.

The guardians alleged that the managing committee is quite indifferent about the regular attendance of the teachers and other staff members. So far they failed to take initiative to solve the burning problems to ensure better education facilities of the students.

The also added that due to various problems and lack of adequate and experienced teachers the SSC Results of last two years were not satisfactory.

They urged the government to take necessary steps to solve the existing problems and help restore the proper academic atmosphere of the school without further delay.

**Help maintain development
spree for welfare of
common people**

SREEPUR (Gazipur), Apr 6: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-Al-Rashid inaugurated the reconstruction work of about two-km-long Naudia Sangun road-cum-embankment here on Monday under Food for Works Programme, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion the state minister said, present government has been making all out efforts for improvement of socio-economic condition of the common people.

Referring to various development programmes of the present government the state minister said, people had already started to get benefits of these activities.

Presided over by Sreepur thana BNP Vice-President

Mojibur Rahman Sultan, the meeting was also addressed by Senior Vice-President of BNP Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui and other local BNP leaders.

Harun-Al-Rashid said, some vested quarters were trying to foil development activities of the government and to jeopardise democratic system now obtaining in the country. He called upon all to resist ill-motives of these quarters for greater national interest.

Speaking on the occasion, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui said, BNP was the only nationalist force in the country which could safeguard the interest of the common people. He called for keeping up the development spree



COXSBAZAR: Information Secretary Nuruddin Al-Masud at the Daily Saikat office during his visit here recently.