

## Diarrhoea kills 125 in N-dists

RAJSHAHI, Apr 9: Diarrhoea claimed about 125 lives and affected 50,000 people during the last one month in 16 districts of the division, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

However, Divisional Health Department confirmed 26 deaths and claimed 3319 people were affected during the same period.

The worst affected districts are: Rajshahi, Naogaon, Pabna, Bogra, Chapainawabganj, Joypurhat, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur.

Diarrhoea broke out in an alarming form at the thanas of Baghmara, Putia, Mohanpur, Godabari, Tanor, Durgapur, Chaghat and Bagha in Rajshahi district; Atrail, Raninagar, Manda, Patnitala and Saphahar of Naogaon district; Chatmohor, Sujannagar, Bera, Sathia and Aghatia of Pabna; Sherpur, Dhunat, Nandipur and Sadar of Bogra; Bholahat, Sibganj and Nachol of Chapainawabganj; Khetlal, Panchabibi, Akkelpur and Kalai of Joypurhat; Tarash, Royganj and Chowhall of Sirajganj.

According to the medical sources, consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water were the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

Several medical teams have been working in the affected areas to combat the spread of the disease.

## Arial Khan engulfs vast area of cropland

FARIDPUR, Apr 9: Vast cropland and a large number of dwelling houses including Chandra Bazar in Bhanga thana were washed away by the river Arial Khan in the last two years, reports UNB.

Chandra Bazar was an important commercial centre of the district having 4-5 mills, bank branches and a cinema hall which was engulfed by the river during the two years time.

Many houses and croplands are being engulfed day by day on account of unabated erosion of the river. Hundreds of affected people who took shelter on the embankments have been passing their days in great hardship.

The number of the floating people are increasing in the area and no step has yet been taken to rehabilitate them.

## BSF instals 3 light posts along border

FENI, Apr 9: Indian Border Security Force (BSF) have installed three light posts at Muhurichar area in Porshuram thana despite Bangladesh protest, reports UNB.

The BDR sources said Indian border guards installed the light posts on March 31 at 1.30 pm.

On April 1, Bangladesh in a flag meeting at Belonia Check Post urged the Indian side to remove the light posts but they remained stick to their illegal stand, the sources added.

## Three killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Apr 9: Three persons were killed and two others sustained injuries when a truck dashed one standing mini bus at Baluhat under Gobindaganj thana on Bogra-Gaibandha highway Wednesday afternoon.

According to report, the ill-fated Gaibandha bound mini bus (Bogra-BA 5018), when reached the spot was hit by the truck from the opposite direction. Two persons were killed on the spot, another succumbed to injuries on way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital and twenty other received injuries. The truck however, fled away. A case was filed with Gobindaganj thana.

## One killed, 29 injured in clashes

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 9: A young man was killed and eight other people were wounded following a clash between two rival groups, over a land dispute, at Sonar Para under Ukhia thana, on Friday police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Shamsul Alam, 40, died on the spot while his wife was sent to Ukhia Hospital with critical injuries. Rest of the wounded were admitted to local hospitals.

However, nobody was arrested in this connection till Friday evening. Detailed of the incident could not be gathered immediately.



RAJSHAHI: Prof M Anisur Rahman, VC, RU handing over certificate to one of the participants of a training course on journalism held here recently. — Star photo

## Sincere efforts needed to continue uplift process

SAVAR, Apr 9: Information Minister Nazmul Huda on Friday called upon all to pursue their sincere efforts to give the present country-wide development process a permanent shape in the greater interest of the nation, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest at a function arranged at Jirab High School under the thana. Local MP Niamatullah Sabu also spoke on the occasion.

The Information minister referred to the last three years of the present government and said it had implemented many development programmes in the country and was still continuing its all-out efforts to achieve economic progress in all areas.

He also referred to the programmes of opposition parties and said they were out to create obstacles to the development.

ment programmes of the present government through their "destructive politics."

Huda mentioned Thursday's siege programme of Awami League and Jatiya Party and said it was yet another instance that their politics were isolating them from the people.

"Awami League said that it will be able to assemble over a lakh of people during its siege programme but in fact it has failed to manage even five thousand people," he said.

"We want a really powerful opposition in the country for the sake of democracy," he said but expressed his regret that those in the opposition were getting far away from the touch of the people because of their activities.

Nazmul Huda said that his party did not want to remain as the sole political party in

Bangladesh. "We certainly want an opposition party which will shun its politics of destruction and take on the politics of constructive approach to give us advice beneficial for the nation as a whole," he said.

The Information Minister called upon the opposition parties to shun unconstitutional and violent activities, face the government politically in the election and consolidate their position in politics with the verdict of the people. In this connection he pointed out that democracy would be consolidated and institutionalised if the opposition pursued constructive politics. Their all-out support and co-operation to the present people's government would pave the way for investment and help the country achieve economic prosperity, he added.

## Tk 158 cr for development of Bhola dist

BHOLA, Apr 9: About Taka 158 crore have been allocated for implementation of various development programmes in the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

This was disclosed in the inaugural function of "Unnayan Utshab-Bhola" on Wednesday.

State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, Mosharruf Hossain Shahjahan formally inaugurated the function. Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed MP also present at the function.

Of the allocated amount, Taka nine crore have been sanctioned to connect Bhola district with the national supply grid, Taka 35 crore for Sahbazpur Gas exploration project, Taka 13 crore for education sector, Taka 47 crore

for 2nd phase of the Bhola Irrigation project, about Taka 11 crore for roads construction, Taka five and a half crore for infrastructure development and Taka eight crore will be spent for other social development programmes by different NGOs and welfare-oriented organisations.

In his address, Mosharruf Hossain said, the aim of the Utshab were to inform the people about the process of implementation of the development activities of the government.

People from all walks of life and students of different institutions of the district, BNCC, girls guide and police personnel participated in an attractive display in the inaugural function.

## Agri fair concludes

GOPALGANJ, Apr 6: A three-day long Agriculture Fair-'94 was concluded on March 30 at the Jugoshikha High School premises at the town, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by Agricultural Extension Department of the district and Sadar thana, the fair was inaugurated by Additional Director of AED of Barisal region Sudhangsu Bhushan Sarkar.

Several stalls were set up and many individual farmers took part at the fair. A large number of people visited the fair every day.

Locally produced pumpkins, brinjal, papaya, tomato, potato, radish, zinger, lintel, chilly, bangi, various types of pesticides, fertilisers and agricultural inputs were on display.

## 'Increase agri output to make economy strong'

MAGURA, Apr 9: The Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control M Majid-ul-Haque, Friday said that Bangladesh had no alternative but to boost agricultural production to make the national economy strong and be able to cope with increasing trend of population, reports BSS.

Extensive irrigated, cultivation together with modern and appropriate technology, he said, were essential to meet our requirements.

The growing demands of agricultural production, he said, could not be achieved through the conventional and traditional cultivation system.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the foundation

laying ceremony of "Pani Bhaban", the office building of water development board at Magura.

Presided over by Project Director of Water Development Board Shafiuddin Ahmed, Chairman, Zia Parishad Kabir Murad, Chief Engineer of West South Zone, Water Development Board, Sirajul Haque Talukdar, and Deputy Commissioner, Nirmal Chandra Sarkar, among others, spoke at the corner-stone laying function.

Farakka Barrage, he said, was adversely affecting Bangladesh and its irrigation programmes.

The minister said, "we should unitedly combat the situation to save the country

from this curse."

He underscored the need for digging more canals to increase irrigation facilities and in this context he called for dedicated and unified endeavours by the concerned officials.

Later, the minister laid the foundation stone of the building and unveiled its plaque.

Inaugurating a women's training programme on "development of residential areas," earlier at Magura thana parishad auditorium, the minister called upon the women, particularly in the rural areas, to plant more and more fruit bearing trees and raise vegetable gardens in the premises of their houses.

He also distributed saplings among the participants.

## AL, BNP supporters' clash: 15 injured

JAMALPUR, Apr 9: At least 15 people were injured, two seriously, in a clash between the activists of Awami League and ruling BNP at Madarganj thana headquarters on Thursday night, police said, reports UNB.

The clash ensued when the thana AL leaders and workers brought out a procession protesting the killing of their party men during Secretariat siege programme in Dhaka on Thursday afternoon. Some BNP activists allegedly attacked on the AL processionists when they were assembling near Balizuri Bazar.

Seriously injured Mirza Sohail of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Abdul Jabbar of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal were shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital from Madarganj Thana Health Complex, police added.

Meanwhile, police arrested five AL leaders on Friday. They are Madarganj thana AL Vice-

President Mozammel Haque, Legal Affairs Secretary Arun Kumar Saha, Ranju, Ahmed Momin and Kanchan.

The district unit of AL held a protest meeting at the local Medical Road on Friday. Local AL MP Mirza Azam and leaders of the unit Faroque Ahmed Chowdhury, Mizanur Rahman Mizan and M A Jallil strongly condemned the attack on the AL peaceful procession by BNP activists and demanded punishment of those involved in the attack.

Both BNP and AL have filed two separate cases against each other in this connection, police said.

Jamalganj district Jatiya Party also brought out a procession on Friday in protest against the killing during Secretariat siege programme in Dhaka. The JP workers paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and chanted anti-government slogans.

## Cotton growers deprived of fair prices

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Apr 9: The cotton cultivators in greater Rangpur are not getting fair prices for their products, according to informations received here from different places of the zone.

There are over 1,800 hectares of land under cotton cultivation in Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Nilphamari districts where about 36,000 maunds of seed cotton are expected to be produced during the current season.

The harvesting of seed cotton has already been started going on in full swing all over the zone.

The Cotton Development Board with its scanty fund had so far procured about five thousand maunds of seed cotton from the farmers at the rate of Taka 720/- per maund as fixed by the government.

The board is continuing the procurement programme at

slow-pace due to want of required fund.

A few textile mills including the Darwani in the meantime, has started purchase of seed cotton from the farmers, but they are allegedly offering much lower prices which is below the government fixed rate.

For want of marketing facilities and the financial hardships, the farmers who are to sell their products at any prices, are being deprived of having the fair price for the past few years.

Another report says: Under the country-wide canal digging programme, the district administration has launched re-excavation of two canals in the district during the current year.

The canals are: Akhira Khal in Mithapukur thana and Alaukuri Nadi in Pirgacha thana.



COMILLA: An artiste is performing a Monipuri dance at a function held recently at the local town hall. The function was arranged by the Shilpakala Academy. — Star photo

## District roundup

### MAULVIBAZAR

### Aus farming plan on 80,000 hectares

From Our Correspondent

Apr 9: Under the Intensive Summer Crop Production Programme a total of 48 thousand hectares of land will be brought under aus cultivation in 6 thanas of Maulvibazar district.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Maulvibazar, out of the total land, High Yielding Variety (HYV) on 30 thousand hectares and local variety on 18 thousand hectares of land will be cultivated.

The thana-wise breakup is — Maulvibazar sadar-7200 hectares, Srimongal-7500; Rajnagar-7300, Kamalganj-10,200, Kulaura-9800 and Baralekha thana-6000 hectares of land.

The district AED source said, a total of 12900 kg aus seeds will be distributed among the farmers at fair prices. The AED will also set up 50 demonstration plots in 6 thanas and all necessary inputs including seeds will be distributed at free of cost for these demonstration plots. The department will start a training programme for the aus farmers to success the aus cultivation target.

With the implementation of the programme, it is expected that about 78 thousand metric tons of paddy will be produced in the district.

### NATORE

### JCD wins college union election

From Our Correspondent

Apr 9: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged all the seats in the students' union election of the NS Government College, Natore held peacefully here on March 31.

College sources said, there were 1,878 voters in the college this year and voters casted votes peacefully.

Shahidul Islam Liton and Sayem Hossain Uzzal were elected as Vice-President (VP) and General Secretary (GS) respectively while Shahab Uddin and Khorshed Alam were elected as Assistant VP and Assistant GS in the election for the year 1994-95.

To ensure free and fair election, proper measures were taken by the college authority. Over 200 police men including armed forces were deployed during the college polls.

Gonatantrik Chhatra Oikya, Samgrami Chhatra Samaj and Islami Chhatra Shibir took part in the election.

### GAZIPUR

### Dacoits decamp with Tk 27,000 goods

Apr 9: Valuables worth about Taka 27,000 were looted in a dacoity at a house in Sripur thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the armed dacoits numbering 10-12 forcibly entered the house of Sirajuddin of Daoni village at dead of night and beat the inmates of the house indiscriminately.

They took the key from the house owner at gun point and looted gold ornaments, cash and other valuables and decamped with the booty.

Police following a tip-off, raided the hideouts of dacoits and arrested five of them. They also recovered a pipe gun, three rounds of bullets and some sharp weapons from their possession.

A case has been filed with the police.

### RAJSHAHI

### Teachers, students asked to give up active politics

Apr 9: A seminar on "expectation of the nation to the university" was organised by Rajshahi University newspaper readers forum in observance of its 5th founding anniversary here at Qazi Nazrul Islam auditorium recently, reports BSS.

Chairman of Bangladesh Press Council, Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and Chief Adviser to the Readers Forum Pro-Vice Chancellor M Azhar Uddin participated in the seminar as the chief and special guests respectively.

Professor Dr Tariq Saiful Islam presented the keynote paper. The seminar was addressed, among others, by Professor Profulla Chandra Sarkar, Deputy Registrar of the Varsity Sayed Mustaq Ali, Director of National Multilingual and Shorthand Research and Training Academy, Abdul Mannan Sarkar and

### SYLHET

### Irregularities alleged, DC's office gheraoed

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 9: About six hundred farmers gheraoed the office of Deputy Commissioner, Sunamganj Wednesday to protest the large-scale irregularities in the construction of embankments in the haors, handling of urgent relief among the flood victims, construction of sluice gates, establishing the right of fishermen in the open fisheries and others. They also handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner-in-charge.

They later brought out a procession in the town and held a meeting at the traffic point with Manik Lal Roy in the chair Bangladesh Krishak Samity arranged the programme.

### KAPASIA

### Farmers asked to increase seed output

Apr 9: Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah called upon the farmers to increase production of vegetables, pulses and oil seeds, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at the farmers' gathering in Kapasia on Thursday, sponsored by the Thana Agricultural Extension Department.

The minister said, the country has achieved food autarky and is now one of the rice exporting countries in the world as the government has embarked on timely development activities.

"Now it is necessary to increase complimentary food stuffs through crops diversification."

Earlier, the jute minister inaugurated a bus terminal at Baniganj on the Baniganj-Gazipur route.

Speaking on the occasion, Hannan Shah observed improved communication is the measurement of civilisation and said, the government has been working relentlessly for the betterment of rural communications.

Later, the minister distributed some prizes among the members of the disabled and shamed freedom fighters, organised by the Thana Muktiyoddha Command.

### BARISAL

### Businessman stabbed to death

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 9: A businessman, Kamruzzaman, 37, was stabbed to death, allegedly by one of his relatives, Rustam Ali, in Surjamonji village under Mathbari thana of Pirojpur district Thursday.

Relatives alleged that Rustam had affairs with Kamruzzaman's wife, Aleya Begum, 30, and daughter Lovely, 16.

Police arrested both, Aleya and Lovely, suspecting their involvement in the murder.

Kamruzzaman was an owner of a cinema hall.

Rustam Ali has been absconding after the murder. A case was lodged with the Mathbari thana.

### KISHOREGANJ

### AL creating obstacles to development programmes

Apr 9: Jute Minister Brig (Retd) Hannan Shah Friday blamed the Awami-BKSL clique for hatching a conspiracy to foil the development programmes undertaken by the present government, reports UNB.

"Politics of hatred and siege will not bring any welfare to the country. Politics of BKSAL is now dead," he told a huge public meeting here Friday afternoon.

Organised by district BNP at Goaranga Bazar, the meeting was presided over by its President Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan and addressed, among others, by Major (Retd) Akhteruzzaman MP, Masud Helali, Kabir Ahmed, Shariful Islam Sharif and Wadudur Rahman Siddique.

The minister said, the government is determined to go ahead with its development programmes and called upon the people to unitedly resist the conspirators.

Akhteruzzaman blasted Awami League for creating anarchy in the country and said, Awami League had called for hartal on April 10 when Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was scheduled to lay the foundation stone of the much awaited Jamuna Bridge.

Later, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a anti-terrorism procession in the town.



RANGPUR: The TNO of Patgram thana distributing some khata, pencils, slates and other educational appliances to the teachers of five institutions of Dahgram and Angorpota enclaves recently. The materials have been donated by the Dhaka Down Rotary Club. — Star photo