

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 Baghmaria, Putia, Mohanpur, Godabari, Tanor, Durgapur, Chiraghata and Bagha in Rajshahi district; Atrai, Raninagar, Manda, Patnitola and Saphahar of Naogaon district; Chatmohor, Sujanagar, Bera, Sathia and Aitghatia of Pabna; Sherpur, Dhunat, Nandipur and Sadar of Bogra; Bholahat, Sibganj and Nachol of Chapainawabganj; Khetia, Panchabibi, Akkelpur and Kalai of Joypurhat; Tarash, Royganj and Chowhali of Striganj.

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 installs 3 light posts along border

FENI, Apr 9 : Indian Border Security Force (BSF) have installed three light posts at Muhurchar 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 stuck to their illegal stand, the sources added.

Three killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA Apr 9 : Three persons were killed and twenty others sustained injuries when a truck dashed one standing mini bus at Baluahat under Gobindagar 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 Gobindagar 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

National

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 Balizari Bazar.

Seriously injured Mirza Sohel 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 Jalil 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.

Jamalpur 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.

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District roundup

MAULVIBAZAR

Aus farming plan on 80,000 hectares

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 rights of fishermen 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 Samiti arranged the programme.

SYLHET

Irregularities alleged, DC's office gheraoed

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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 autonomy 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 complementary 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 shaheed freedom fighters, organised by the Thana Muktijoddha 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 Surjamoni 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.

Rustum 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-BKSAL clique for hatching a conspiracy to foil the development programmes undertaken by the present government, reports UNB.

He was addressing the inaugral functions of three newly constructed buildings of Muchikhali and Sonatandi Primary School and Sammilani High School in the district on Wednesday.

The Agriculture Minister said, proper education is a must for massive development of any nation. He said that government has taken appropriate steps and allocated highest amount for the development of education sector.

Majid-ul Haq said local administration and concerned officials of education department will have to be honest and dutiful to spend government funds timely and properly to ensure development in the education sector.

The Minister also addressed a reception function of the newly-elected parliament member Kazi Salimul Haq at Satrjupur.

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

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 Sabir 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

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.

The board is continuing the procurement programme at

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 Alaikuri Nadi in Pirojganj thana.

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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, linter, chilly, bangi, various types of pesticides, fertilisers and agricultural inputs were on display.

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.



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

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The minister also attended a function at Magura Adarsha Degree College arranged to accord reception to Ahmed Mostafa Kamal, a student of the college who stood first in BCom pass examination, 1992, of Rajshahi University.

The minister handed over a gold medal to the student for his result.

The Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, M Majid-ul Haq on Wednesday said that the present government earned the confidence of the people by ensuring their basic requirements as well as implementing the pre-election commitments in phases.

The masses, he said should properly utilise the opportunities created by the government for achieving national progress and prosperity to materialise their hopes and aspirations.

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