

## 4 Pabna JCD leaders jailed

PABNA, Apr 11: Four Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders of the district were sentenced today to five years imprisonment by Bogra District and Special Tribunal Judge for stabbing a policeman, reports UNB.

They are Edward University College Student Union VP Kamrul Hasan Mintu, GS Saiful Islam and publicity secretary Rashedul Hasan Babu, and district leader of JCD Nizam Uddin.

The court of Judge Mosharruf Hossain also acquitted 13 others of the charge.

All were tried under the Anti-terrorism Act in absentia as they are absconding.

Court sources said the case was transferred to Bogra as the District and Sessions and Tribunal Judge of Pabna, Mohammad Ali, felt "embarrassed" in dealing with it and informed the Chief Justice of the matter. The Chief Justice referred the case to the Special Tribunal of Bogra on February 2.

The case in brief was that the accused stabbed constable Mohsinuzzaman while he tried to resist them from attacking some injured Chhatra League workers admitted to the Sadar Hospital here after a clash on May 16 last year.

A BCL leader was killed and 40 others were injured in the clash between the JCD and the BCL activists.

After examining 13 witnesses, the judge pronounced the verdict.

Police said the four are also wanted in a number of other cases. There are some 20 cases against Mintu, 13 against Babu, 7 against Nizam and 6 against Saiful in different thanas of the district, they said.

## 3 Sharbahara Party men handed over to police

PATUAKHALI, Apr 11: Villagers caught three Sarbahara Party men at Madhabpura under Bauphal thana recently and gave them beating before handing them over to the police, reports BSS.

Three of the gang of six escaped. Three others were nabbed by the villagers when they had come to raise illegal fund from one Salar Ali Mollah of Madhabpura. Eye of one of the sarbaharas were scooped out and two of his accomplices were subjected to ruthless beatings.

A case has been registered with Bauphal police.

Another report says: District Narcotics Control Department in cooperation with police discovered a big hashish crop and recovered half a kilogram of dry hashish at village Dharandi under Patuakhali sadar thana recently.

Police arrested a person for having cultivated 3634 hemp plants. The plants were raised in pots in his residential premises.

A case has been registered with Patuakhali police.

## Hill people's grand confce held

CHITTAGONG, Apr 11: The Hill Mass Council (Pahari Gana Parishad) in collaboration with the Hill Students Council (Pahari Chhatra Parishad) organised a grand conference in Khagrachhari today. About 3000 supporters of both the councils attended the conference held at the Khagrachhari Government College.

## Dhumpan Tyag Karun, Purashkar Grohon Korun

NATORE, Apr 11: A new anti-smoking organisation styled as "Dhumpan Tyag Korun, Purashkar Grohon Korun" (Give up smoking habit and take prize) has been formed in the district, reports UNB.

Lutfar Rahman and Zahangir Hossain were selected as president and secretary of the organisation respectively. At least 100 people joined the Madhabpur village unit in sadar thana. People are also joining the other units of the organisation with much enthusiasm.

Leaders of the anti-smoking group, gave a call to all smokers to join them in their campaign to make the district free from smoking of cigarettes, bids other spurious drugs and said 10 members of the organization would be awarded each year for giving up smoking habit through the lottery.

In their campaign the members of the organisation have been creating mass awareness about the injurious effect of the smoking habit. They expressed optimism about their success of the campaign in mass level.

Another report says: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has won the student union election of Natore NS Government College with full panel.



SYEDABAD (Sirajganj): Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the people after unveiling the plaque of the foundation stone of the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge here on Sunday. Thousands of people assembled here to witness the memorable event. — Photo by A K M Mohsin

## Mobarakganj Sugar Mills

# Sugar worth Tk 23 cr lying unsold

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 11: About 8,000 metric tons of sugar worth Taka 23 crore of Mobarakganj Sugar Mills have been lying unsold.

As a result, the mill authority is unable to pay the payment of sugarcane.

The mill authority earlier fixed a target to produce 14,750 metric tons of sugar crushing 2,79,000 metric tons of sugarcane during the current season.

The mill produced 14,313 metric tons of sugar in 117 days crushing 1,67,257 metric tons of sugarcane.

The General Manager of the mill informed this correspondent that they are unable to sell sugar as Indian sugar has flooded the markets as it is cheaper.

The dealers do not lift their quotas as country made sugar do not get market as its price is higher than the Indian sugar.

Different kinds of bills amounting to Taka two crore have been lying unpaid for want of money.

### Property worth

Tk 3 lakh gutted

Property worth Taka three lakh was gutted and two cows

and a goat burnt alive in a devastating fire at village Laxmipur in Saikupa thana of the district recently.

According to reports, the fire originated from a kitchen and spread within a short time. Two cows, and a goat and 17 tinshed kutcha houses worth Taka three lakh burnt to ashes. The ill-fated victims are Tota Biswas, Benu Biswas, Anwar Biswas and Jinnal Alam.

### Housewife commits

suicide

Tuku Khatun, 30, a housewife of village Gurpara in Kotchandpur thana of Jhenidah district committed suicide by hanging herself recently.

Family trouble is said to be the cause of her suicide, police said.

Another report says: Education department has taken up a Taka 50 lakh project for the development works in Kotchandpur thana of the district.

According to reports, construction work of 13 government and non-government primary schools has already been started and the works are expected to be completed by

June this year.

A source of Education Department said, the building construction works of Kathalia Sunderpur Government Primary School, Laxmipur Government Primary School, Phulbari Government Primary School, Durbakundu Government Primary School, Dhobalia Government Primary School, Manikdih Government Primary School, Ramchandrapur Government Primary School, Suyadi Government Primary School, Kamarkundu Government Primary School, Sarutia Government Primary School, Talina Government Primary School and Nawdagam Government Primary School have been started. The furniture for these schools will be purchased at a cost of Taka 3.25 lakh.

In the meantime, building construction work of Ikra Primary School, Sadarpur Primary School, Chanpara Primary School, Singia Primary School and Eranda Primary School were completed at a cost of Taka 20.6 lakh.

Another report says: Hundreds of trees of greater Jessore and Kushtia districts are being cut for use in brick fields and sugar producing

mills.

It is alleged that the brick field owners and similar traders in Jhenidah, Jessore, Narail, Magura, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur are using huge quantities of wood instead of coal as fuel. At present per maund of firewood is being sold between Taka 45 and 60. The brickfield owners prefer to use firewood instead of coal for its cheaper price. It is learnt, fruit bearing trees like, mango, jack-fruit, berry, lichi and date trees are being cut in huge numbers.

Sometimes, the brick field owners allure the poor people to sell their trees in exchange for advance payment, it is alleged.

Besides, trees are found openly piled up in saw-mills and in some brickfields.

Under Forest Preservation Act, use of firewood in those fields is strictly prohibited. But law enforcing agencies are not taking measures against these traders.

Experts said, use of firewood can be stopped by arranging supply of sufficient quantities of coal and liquid petroleum (L.P) gas to manufacturing brick field owners and sugar mills.

## Help achieve self-reliance thru proper use of land

MAGURA, Apr 11: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul Haque has called for achieving prosperity and self-reliance by properly utilising country's fertile land and huge man power, reports BSS.

The present government has been launching comprehensive and effective development programmes on agricultural sector in order to increase agricultural production, he added.

The minister was addressing as chief guest at a public meeting at Mahammadpur High School premises under Magura district here Tuesday.

The meeting was also addressed, among others, by newly elected Member of the Parliament Kazi Salimul Haque Kamal and the President of Zia Parishad, Kabir Murad.

Referring to different positive and welfare-oriented programmes of the government, the minister underscored the need for mass participation in respect of party affiliation for successful implementation of these programmes. He said that awareness should be created among the common people about the good effects of family planning, health, education for all and poverty alleviation programmes of the government, so that they could be allured to avail the opportunity being provided for improving their lot.

Kazi Salimul Haque said that the main aim of the present government was to attain self-sufficiency in all fields of national life by utilising available resources.

## Workshop on impact of pesticide on fish, environment

CHANDPUR, Apr 11: A two-day-long workshop on the impact of pesticide on fish and environment was held at the Chandpur Fishery Institute recently, reports BSS.

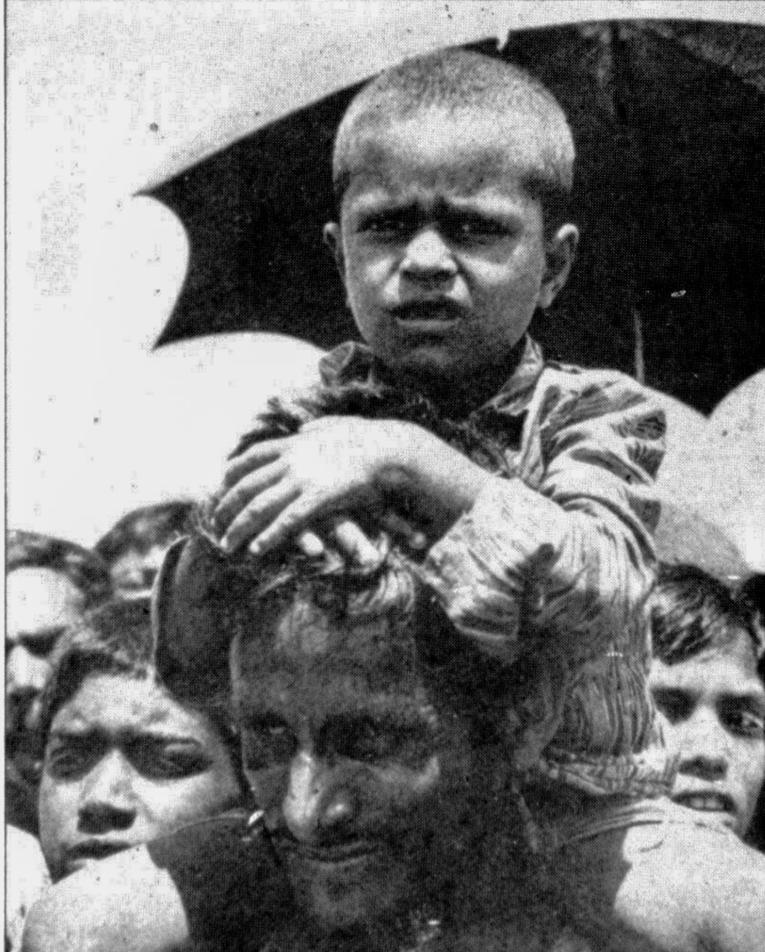
Hamidur Rahman, Deputy Director, Agriculture, Dr G C Halder, Chief scientific Officer, Khondaker Nurur Rashid, Deputy Director Fishery, Ali Akbar, Principal Fishery Institute and Prof Mohammed Hossain Khan took part in the discussion on the subject.

Specialised persons observed that indiscriminate use of pesticide on agricultural land left an adverse impact on our fish resources.

## Lions palli at Daulatkhan

DAULATKHAN, (Bhola) Apr 11: Lions Club of Dhaka Ramna recently constructed a Lions Palli (village) comprising 25 dwelling houses at a cost of over Taka five lakh at Daulatkhan in Bhola district, reports UNB.

The documents of the houses were distributed on Sunday at a simple but impressive ceremony. The houses, constructed under financial assistances from Lions Clubs International Foundation and the Ramna Chapter, and local philanthropists, have been allotted to the poor people rendered homeless by river erosion and successive cyclones.



SHYAMSHOL (Tangail): Father and son, the two among thousands of spectators were present during the foundation laying ceremony of the long-cherished Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge here on Sunday braving scorching heat. — Photo by A K M Mohsin

## District roundup

### NARSINGDI

## Re-union of ex-students held

Apr 11: The re-union meeting of former students of Satirpara Kali Kumar Institution was held on Friday at the school premises here with Shakhawat Hossain Bhuiyan in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting, organised by the Former Students Samity of the school was addressed, among others, by ADC Ekram Ahmed, Headmaster Khondaker Abdur Rahim, advisors of the samity Mahbub Uddin, Swapan Kumar Saha, Prof Pranab Kumar Chakraborty, District Muktojodah Commander Mir Emdadul Huq, Habibur Rahman, Abdur Rahim, Narsingdi Government College VP Khabirul Islam, Satyendranath Modak and Mobarak Hossain.

Recalling the glorious history of the oldest school of the district the speakers advised the students to uphold the prestige and dignity of the institution in doing brilliant results in the examinations. They said the school had produced many worthy sons of the country who are now contributing in different fields of the nation-building tasks.

The speakers thanked the organisers for holding such a function which is helpful in bringing coordination between the former and the present students for the mutual understanding in the tasks of national building.

The function was rounded off with a cultural function.

### LALMONIRHAT

## 40 injured in clash over land dispute

Apr 11: A bloody clash over a piece of land left 40 people injured in Dhatagachhi village near the town Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said rival groups used lethal weapons during the fight over ownership of .67 (point six seven) land.

Seventeen of the injured including three women were admitted to sadar hospital. The condition of four — Siraj Mia (40), Idris Ali (20), Sekandar Ali (25) and Momena Khatun (35) — was stated to be critical.

### SIRAJGANJ

## 5 injured in road accident

Apr 11: A truck was totally smashed when a train running towards Iswardi rammed into it at the Goshala Rail Crossing near Sirajganj Bazar station early Saturday injuring five people, reports UNB.

Witnesses and station employees said the accident which occurred at 6 am was due to negligence of the employees at the crossing.

The helper of the truck Akmol Hossain and passenger Akbar Ali was among the injured. The driver, however, escaped unhurt.

A GD was filed with the Railway Police in this connection.

## Mohiuddin for master plan to increase facilities

CHITTAGONG, Apr 11: City Major Alhaj A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury on Saturday underscored the need for formulating a time-befitting and pragmatic masterplan for Chittagong City to increase facilities for city dwellers and overall development of the city, a corporation press release said, reports BSS.

The mayor said, coordination among different development oriented organisations was a must for resolving all problems of the city. Chowdhury said this while reviewing different ongoing development projects of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) at its conference room here on Saturday.

Chairman of the CDA, Lt Col (Retd) Ziauddin, Deputy Project Coordinator of UNDP Hari Baral, chief engineers of CDA and city corporation and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

The meeting was apprised that the government would provide Taka 10.2 crore for implementation of five different development projects of CDA which included construc-

tion of connection road from Bahaddarhat Bus Terminal to the Karnaphuli Bridge, an alternative road at Dewannhat junction, and a new bus terminal near Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Besides, CDA from its own fund, will spend Taka 15 crore for the development of housing estates at the left side of the river Karnaphuli and Chandgaon Residential Area over a total of 56 acres of land.

Another report says: Chandgaon police recovered the body of Rupon Barua (22) from Kalarchhara canal on Saturday.

Surendra Lal Barua, father of Rupon Barua of village Adermanik of Raajan thana said that Rupon went to nearby Oli Miah Market on Saturday and since then he was missing.

Police recovered the body which bore mark of bullet injury. The body was taken for post mortem. A case was filed with Chandgaon police in this connection.

Railway police recovered another unidentified body from Battali Rail Station here on Saturday.

## Children work to earn bread

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Apr 11: Child labourers are increasing in the district day by day.

The children of the poor floating people who come to the urban areas in search of work are to engage in odd jobs for earning livelihood.

The minor boys and girls are found working as helping hands in hotels, restaurants, factories, like bidi factory, tobacco factory, motor garages, bicycle repairing shops, welding workshop etc.

Some of them work as shoe-shine boys domestic servants, and cow-boys.

According to International Labour Law, children below the age of 15 are not allowed to take up hard work. In Bangladesh, this age limit has apparently been relaxed. Most of the children engaged in various work are mostly 10 years of age or below.

It has been found that these children are compelled to take up hard work only because of their poverty.

In greater Rangpur district comprising of Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Nilphamari and Gaibandha there are about 30,000 such child labourers working for their own livelihood. And in some cases they are maintaining their families.

Most of them have no shelter or house to live and as such after the day's hard work, they spent the night at their master's places or in railway platform or in the veranda of other's house.

During the winter, their condition is really pitiable. They cannot afford bedding and other wares to cover their body with none to look after them.

Kachua (8) use to live in other's houses. He got a job at a restaurant of Nageswari thana town at a nominal wage of Taka 3 per day plus meals. He works dawn to midnight to satisfy his master when other boys of his age group enjoy sound sleep.

His two elder brothers aged 13 and 10, also work at restaurants at nominal wages as 'table boy'. Their only dream is to see that the youngest brother "Solim" (3) grows up in a different way. They want to send him to school and

only the future can tell if their dream would come true.

Another report says: Crop-cutting ceremony of a demonstration plot of sunflower seeds was held at village Khalishakalola in Kanthalbar union of Kurigram sadar thana recently. In this connection a discussion meeting was arranged at the chairmanship of local farmer Majbar Rahman.

Abdur Rahman Khan, Training Officer of Kurigram Agriculture Extension Department was present as chief guest while Akhtaruzzaman, SMO and Hasan Ali, Thana Agri-Officer were present as the special guests.

It was addressed, along others, by Altaf Hossain, block-supervisor.

Meanwhile, production of lily (shapla) has decreased and its groves in the northern part of the country including Kurigram district are being destroyed due to lack of proper nursing, maintenance and plantation programme.

Each and every beel, haor, pond, tank and marshy land in northern region of the country was once rich in lily. But lily is decaying and its production is now scanty in these beels, haors and ponds.

It may be mentioned here that lily creeper (shapla lata) is used as vegetables in the wake of vegetables crisis in the rainy

## 2 electricians electrocuted

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 11: Two electricians were electrocuted and another was injured seriously at village Lama Meherpur of Golapganj thana Tuesday noon.

On the day of the incident, some labourers were engaged in sinking a tubewell in the bathroom of a house. Suddenly, a line electric wire snapped and fell on the two electricians working there.

The victims are Soyful, 28, of village Dakshinbhag and Shebul, 30, of village Ujan Meherpur. Another labourer Ahmed Ali received serious injuries.

season. Its food value is not in any way less than any other vegetables. The food value is more than beet, radish, bean, cabbage and cauliflower, it is learnt.

The ripe seeds of lily is used to make fried grain (khol) which commonly turned as 'dhyaper khol'. But now-a-days, dhyaper khol has disappeared from the village.

No extra land is required for the cultivation of lily. It can be grown abundantly on the land which usually remain fallow in the rainy season. Three kilograms of lily seeds valued at about Taka 15 to 20 may be sown on the fallow land after nominal plough just before the heavy shower.

Just after the rainfall thousands of lily creeper would come out on the water surface. One can easily earn about Taka 1500 to Taka 2500 per year by cultivating lily on one acre of land at a nominal expenditure and not even losing the harvesting period of any other crops. Both lily lata and lily seeds are saleable.

The villagers can easily change their fate by selling lily creeper (shapla lata) as vegetables and shapla seeds for making fried grain (khol).

Experienced circle opined that the people should be given advice in respect of shapla production methodically because of its importance in our economic and social life.

The chess competition — '94 arranged by Kurigram Chess Club was formally opened by S I Kabir, ADM, Kurigram in presence of a large number of chess fans and elite of the locality recently at the club premises.

In this connection a discussion meeting was held under the chairmanship of Munir Hussain, President of the club. Among others, Khondaker Mahboob Elahi Kazol, Secretary of the chess club, Majidul Islam, Motubar Rahman Shafi, S I Kabir and Munir Hussain took part in the discussions.

A total of 35 chess competitors from all over the district participating in the competition. The discussion meeting was rounded off with a tea-party.