

## Minu seeks cooperation, exchanges views

RAJSHAHI, Apr 12 : State Minister for Land, Advocate Kabir Hossain Monday urged the ward commissioners and city dwellers to actively participate in the development programmes of Rajshahi City Corporation, reports BSS.

He was addressing and exchanging views with the corses of people in connection with the first introductory meeting of newly elected ward commissioners and mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation at local zila parishad auditorium.

Presided over by RCC Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Azizur Rahman MP, ex city mayors, Dhurul Huda and Abdul Hadi and ex MP Moyennuddin Ahmed Manik took part in exchanging views.

City mayor sought co-operation from all to make the city modern and prosperous.

## Expulsion of JCD leaders protested

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 12 : In protest against the expulsion of three leaders of the JCD and dissolution of the Sylhet district unit of the party, a meeting was held at the Court Point Monday afternoon. Ex vice president of the district unit Abdul Mannan presided.

The speakers termed the central committee's decision as 'undemocratic' and 'unconstitutional'. They also demanded its immediate withdrawal. The protesters later brought out a procession in the town. The committee of the JCD had dissolved the Sylhet district unit and expelled Emdad Hossain Tipu, joint-secretary, Habibur Rahman Habib and Iqbal Hossain Thursday.

The correspondent adds : Suranjit Sengupta, MP, leader of Ganotantri Party expressed his grave concern over the flash flood situation of Sunamganj district and called upon the government to declare the district as 'distressed area'.

He was addressing a press conference at Sylhet circuit house Monday afternoon after a weeklong visit in the Dera and Shulla thanas. He also criticised the inadequate relief measures taken by the concerned authorities.

## Valuables, cash looted in 4 separate dacoities

KUSHTIA, Apr 12 : Four armed dacoities were committed in the last week, police said Monday, reports UNB.

In one incident two separate dacoities were committed on the same night of April 8 in the houses of Abdus Sobhan and Sahadat Ali of Khoksha College Para.

Witnesses said, a gang of 20 armed dacoits forcibly entered their houses, beat the inmates indiscriminately and looted valuables and cash worth about Taka 50,000.

Another two dacoities were committed on same night of April 5 in the same way at the houses of Abdul Aziz Molla and Advocate Hero Gobinda Chakraborty of Kamalapur and Islampur villages respectively where the dacoits decamped with valuables and cash.

Dacoits also stabbed Bandana Rani, wife of the Advocate, with a sharp knife. She was rushed to the local hospital.

## 6 JP men's bail prayer rejected

KHULNA, Apr 12: The District and Sessions Judge rejected the bail prayers of 6 Jatiya Party men and ordered them into jail when they surrendered to the court today (Saturday), reports UNB.

They are: JP city unit secretary and former chairman of the Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abul Kashem, former JP parliament member Abul Hossain and four others.

They were wanted in a case filed by a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal worker for damaging a fruit shop at Dak Bunglow road a few days before the city corporation elections.

Six other accused, including mayoral candidate of the last city corporation election SMA Rab, are at large on bail on a High Court order.

Kashem and others did not turn up in the court earlier despite court order.

After hearing their petitions, the judge refused them bail and sent them to jail.



SK Razzak Ali, Speaker, Jatiya Sangsad speaking as chief guest at a seminar on 'primary and mass education in eradicating poverty, held at Botiaghata thana auditorium on April 6.' PID photo

## Installation of 667 hand & shallow tubewells on

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Apr 12 : Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Moulvibazar has taken up a scheme to instal 407 shallow tubewells under 'rural water supply programme' in the rural areas of Moulvibazar district during current financial year.

Official sources said, the scheme will be funded by the government. Under the programme, 292 tubewells have already been installed.

Another scheme has also been taken up to sink 260 tubewells in six thanas of the district. Of these, 101 tubewells are shallow and 159 are Tara pumps. According to PHED source, this scheme will be funded by UNICEF. Under the programme, 57 shallow and 77 Tara pumps have already been installed and the rest are expected to be installed by June next.

It is also reported that, PHED will resink 514 tubewells under post-flood rehabilitation programme in the district.

It is gathered from a source, a total of one thousand tubewells in six thanas of the district is now out of order for want of repair for long.

Various diseases including diarrhoea, jaundice and blood

dysentery are common in the rural area due to scarcity of pure drinking water.

According to official record of PHED, four hundred seven tubewells are lying inoperative. The break-up of the tubewells in sadar thana-95, Rajnagar thana-30, Kulaura thana-154, Kamalganj thana-49, Srimongal thana-37 and in Baralekha thana-50 tubewells lying inoperative. But the actual number is more than double. The number of existing

tubewells in Moulvibazar district is 13,862.

It is learnt that pilferage of parts including head and pump by organised thugs is rampant ground water level fall has created the situation more acute in the rural areas.

It is informed that the staff of PHED are not coming up for repairing the tubewells. Rural people of some areas told this correspondent that the negative attitude of PHED staff is aggravating the situation.

Another report says : The publication ceremony 'Rinjhini' written by Poet Mohammed Ismail Advocate was held at local public library auditorium on April 8.

This colourful function was presided over by Advocate Mujibur Rahman while Aminur Rasul, Additional District Magistrate attended as chief guest.

Among others, Radhika Mohan Goswami, Advocate Syed Jaynal Abedin and Mahfuzur Rahman took part in discussion on the book. Poet Mohammed Ismail, author of Rinjhini also addressed the function.

The function was followed by a cultural function where songs composed by Poet Ismail was rendered.

## Fake pir, 15 followers arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 12 : Police arrested 15 people along with a 'fake pir' from a village in Rayganj thana of the district on Saturday night, reports UNB.

According to police, Mokbul Hossain, 50, has been cheating the innocent people claiming himself as pir (spiritual leader) at village Gobindapur. He was also reportedly engaged in anti-social activities.

On information, police raided the den of the pir and arrested him along with his followers. Later they were sent to jail.

## Three convicted for murder

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Apr 12: Two people were sentenced to life imprisonment for murder in the district recently.

Alauddin Sardar, District Sessions Judge of Satkhira convicted Abdul Sardar and his first wife, Anarati of village Gonali under Tala thana of the district on charge of killing and sentenced them to suffer life term imprisonment and to pay fine of Taka 5000 each in default imprisonment for another one year each under section 302/34 BPC.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused Abdul with the help of his first wife, Anarati killed his second wife, Rizia Begum, 25, on August 26, 1989.

A case was lodged with Tala PS and after the investigation police submitted charge sheet against them. The learned judge tried the case and found them guilty and awarded them

the said punishment.

Another report says: One person was sentenced to life term for murder.

ANM Bashir Ullah, Additional District Session Judge of Satkhira convicted one, Mobarak Gazi of village Nalta under Kaligonj thana of the district on charge of killing his wife and sentenced him to suffer life term imprisonment and to pay fine of Taka 1,000 in default RI for another one year under section 302 BPC recently.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused, Mobarak Gazi mercilessly beat his wife on April 17, 1992. She died on the spot.

A case was lodged with Kaligonj PS following investigation police submitted charge sheet against the accused person.

Another report adds: Huge quantities of fish worth about Taka 20,000 were killed in a pond at Puspia Kati village under Debhatana thana of the district recently.

According to reports a group of miscreants poured pesticides into a pond owned by Waliul Islam of the said village in the middle of the night. All of the fish were killed on the following day.

## Road mishap, lightning leave three dead

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 12: Two people were killed and another was injured in separate road mishaps in Sadar thana on Monday, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Lal Miah (18) of Netrakona district and Chhuttu Miah (25) son of Darbesh Ali of Pairtala village in Brahmanbaria sadar.

Lal Miah, travelling on a rooftop of a Sylhet bound bus was hit by a branch of a tree and fell down. He died on the spot. On the same day, another bus passenger Md Motalib (30)

was injured in a similar way. In another incident, Chhuttu Miah succumbed to his injuries at sadar hospital on Saturday. He was seriously wounded in a road mishap.

Another report says: Lightning killed a boy and injured another man at village Paikpara in sadar thana in separate incidents, police said.

According to witnesses, the victim Mamun, 13, son of Abdur Rouf of Paikpara, died on the spot when the thunderbolt struck him. He met the tragic end while he was going to neighbouring hut from his residence on April 1.



Prof RI Chowdhury, VC of Chittagong University distributing prize to one of the winners of indoor games competition of the varsity on April 5. — CU photo

## Power failures frequent

SHARIATPUR, Apr 12: Frequent power failures at the district headquarters and its adjoining areas have been causing untold suffering to people, reports UNB.

It is alleged that lack of proper management system was the main cause of power crisis. A power sub-station was installed to supply electricity to the district town, sadar and Palong thanas in 1984. But the district electricity supply system is controlled from 33 KV power centre of Madaripur district due to absence of regular power supply at the sub-centre in the Shariatpur district town.

The electricity subscribers of the town communicate with the Madaripur sub-centre over telephone in the hours of power failure to restore the power supply which takes much trouble.

There are about 5,000 power subscribers in all the six thanas of the district. But the existing two low-capacity transformers are quite inadequate to meet the present need of the people.

According to a Power Development Board official, power is being supplied to two thanas and district town from two feeders. If trouble arises in any line of any thana the supply of electricity of all thanas under the feeders disrupts automatically. Then they are to start repair work after suspending power in Madaripur sub-centre which takes much time.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to solve the problem immediately.

## Jute industry may be closed

JESSORE, Apr 12: Jessore Jute Industries which has suffered a loss of Taka 9.09 crore in 9 months to March is likely to be closed down, reports UNB.

## Shifting of morgue from present site demanded

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Apr 12 : The local authority has not yet taken any step to shift the morgue despite repeated appeals by the residents of the town.

The morgue at Gaibandha modern hospital which is situated at the middle of the town, has been polluting the environment for long time.

The local inhabitants held rallies, discussions several times to draw the attention of the authority but the officials paid little attention about the matter.

The tin-shed house having no boundary wall in the area, has been poorly equipped. It has no window or door. A concrete platform is used to keep the bodies which remains dirty most of the times. Electricity and water supply have remained cut off for a long period.

The morgue emit bad odour constantly creating health hazard. The inhabitants of surrounding area suffer from this problem.

Generally the autopsy is done within 24 hours of arrival of the bodies. However, in most cases, bodies are left behind for days together. The bodies which are mostly decomposed are left behind emit pungent smell which is said to

be beyond tolerance. According to law, all bodies from accidents, suicide, murder must undergo post mortem for medical report. Sometimes, bodies are not claimed by the victims' family, relatives or friends.

Consequently the bodies are left untouched at the morgue premises. Sweepers who are assigned to remove the bodies do not, at times, carry out their duties leading to a grave situation. The sweepers often demand money just to remove the bodies, it is alleged.

The morgue premises is not properly guarded. The strong dogs are often seen to carry decomposed body on the roads or on open fields.

The morgue was set up a long time ago, away from the city crowd. However, with the increase in population as well as influx of people from other areas the crowd started to live surrounding the morgue and hospital areas. More houses were built along the morgue area. This has led to major problem among the inhabitants who live here.

The number of deaths, largely from road mishaps, diseases and natural, has been increasing further worsening the condition in the morgue.

## Bamboo output declines

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 12 : Production of bamboo in the district is declining fast for want of proper maintenance, nursing of clusters and absence of planned plantation programme.

The district was once very rich in bamboo production. There were adequate bamboo clusters in the district but most of them are decaying for indiscriminate cutting.

As such acute scarcity of bamboo has been prevailing in these areas and consequently prices of bamboo has increased several times.

On the otherhand, no effort has been taken up to save the bamboo in these areas. The owners of the clusters are ignorant of the method of growing bamboo. The roots which remain underground after cutting bamboo are lifted at random and are being sold in the markets as firewood. Small bamboo plants are not spared for future growth.

Agricultural experts opined that proper nursing will enable a bamboo to grow faster whereas only 2 to 3 small plants grow in a year. As such production of bamboo is not increasing in proportion to the growing needs. This has also created an adverse effect on both day labourers and bamboo

made cottage industries. The experts also said, repair and construction of kutcha houses in rural areas and even some urban areas are being hampered badly for want of bamboo and traditional cottage industries depend on bamboo are also facing extinction.

In rural areas a piece of bamboo is being sold at Taka 60 to Taka 120. As a result, the poor people can not afford to buy bamboos at an exorbitant price.

The day labourers who depend on bamboo based industries and construction work are compelled to leave the traditional profession due to poor return from their production.

Another report says : Swapnan Kumar Sarkar, a businessman of Khalispur bazar, in Mohepur thana of the district was injured in bomb throwing on him while trying to resist the dacoits.

Report says, some armed miscreants broke open the door of the shop of Swapnan Sarkar at about 10 pm and looted valuables worth taka about 60 thousand. Swapnan rushed to the spot and the miscreants threw bomb on him. As a result, Swapnan received serious injuries in his face and rushed to Mohepur thana hospital.

## 49 seed store buildings may collapse

PATUAKHALI, Apr 12 : Forty-nine seed stores in five thanas of Barguna district, built in 1961-62, are now on the verge of collapse, reports UNB.

According to official sources, there are 11 union level seed stores in Sadar thana, 20 in Amtali thana, 7 in Betagi thana, 4 in Barna thana and 7 in Patharghata thana of the district.

It is learnt the seed stores were not repaired since it's establishment during Pakistan period. As a result, the seed stores are now on the verge of destruction.

Local farmers said, after the independence of Bangladesh, the distribution and selling of seeds was transferred to the BADCO and the seed store godowns were allotted as residential quarters for the union Block Supervisors. But those godowns could not be used as quarters without necessary

renovation. Another report says : District Water Development Board constructed a 5-km long embankment at Jaikati near the town during the current fiscal year.

According to official sources, Taka 25 lakh was spent for construction of the embankment and at least 2000 acres of land will be saved from salinity and flash flood. About 500 local landless people took part in the work.

Another report adds that the construction work of 13 primary schools at an estimated cost of Taka 1.87 crore is progressing fast.

About 40 per cent work of the project has already been completed and the rest is expected to be finished soon. With the completion of the project about 6000 students will get education facilities.

## District roundup

CHITTAGONG

### Buddhist leader dies of heart attack

Apr 12: Venerable Amritananda Mahathero, high priest of Katalganj Nabapandit Vihar and Vice-President of Bangladesh Boudha Krist Prachar Sangha died of a heart attack at Chittagong Medical College Hospital here Thursday, reports sources said, reports BSS.

Ven. Amritananda Mahathero was 64.

A disciple of late Buddhist leader Visuddhananda Mahathero, late Amritananda left behind a large number of devotees, relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Born in east Gozra of Rajon thana, late Amritananda wrote a number of religious books on Buddhist religion.

A large number of devotees from different parts of the city and far-flung areas of Buddhist-populated villages of the district thronged the Katalganj Nabapandit Vihar to pay last respect to their religious leader.

The mortal remains of late Mahathero will be kept preserved for ceremonial cremation at a convenient time.

KURIGRAM

### Uplift works going on with low quality materials

From Our Correspondent

Apr 12: The repair and construction work of roads, drains, culverts, public latrines and other development works with the allocation of Taka 2 crore 8 lakh in the Kurigram pourashava area have been going on with low quality construction materials and in unplanned way, it is alleged.

It is learnt that government had taken up a plan for the all round development of Kurigram pourashava with a total allocations of 15 crore taka. The time for the completion of the works was fixed at three years.

During the current year, Taka 2 crore 8 lakh were sanctioned. Accordingly the works have been started and going on very hurriedly without any definite plan and without using required construction materials.

The tax-payers of Kurigram urged the concerned authority, specially newly elected pourashava chairman to form an enquiry committee to investigate the process of the pourashava development works.

SAVAR

### 25 hurt in clash near Savar College

Apr 12: Some 25 people were injured, eight of them seriously, in a clash between armed miscreants and students in front of Savar College Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Chandan, 18, a second year student of the Savar College, was attacked by a group of miscreants near the Savar Girls' School at about 11 am. They stabbed him indiscriminately.

As the news of the attack spread in the locality, students from the nearby college and the local people came to rescue Chandan resulting in a clash with the armed group.

Police rushed to the spot and arrested three miscreants named Yasin, Wahid and Sujon.

Three of the injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and five to the Savar Thana Health Complex.

Manjurul Alam Rajib, vice president of the college students union, in a statement demanded arrest and punishment of the terrorists.

KUSHTIA

### Ten people hurt in group clash

Apr 12: At least ten people were injured, four seriously, in a clash between two feuding groups in Khoksha thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

Seriously injured persons were identified as, Abed Sheikh, 35, Abul Hossain, 51, Wadud Malek, 25, and Asraf 25.

According to witnesses, the rival group at one stage ransacked and set ablaze four houses. Previous enmity was said to be reason behind the clash. Both the groups attacked each other with lethal and sharp weapons.

Police later rushed to the spot, arrested eight feuding people and helped to bring the fire under control.

Two separate cases were filed with the police.

SATKHIRA

### Fisherman robbed of Tk 10,000

Apr 12: A fisherman was injured and robbed of Taka 10,000 by some miscreants on Friday, reports UNB.

The fisherman was identified as Sheikh Shaheen 27, of Thanaghata village in sadar thana.

According to witnesses, Shaheen while returning from Satkhira town was attacked by some miscreants who beat him mercilessly and looted the cash.

He was rushed to the sadar hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

MANIKGANJ

### Processions for and against hartal call

Apr 12: Rallies and processions were organised at the town on Saturday in support of and against Sunday's dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the opposition, reports UNB.

Awami League and Jatiya Party have called for the countrywide hartal on Sunday and on April 26 to protest the killing of two students during Awami League's siege programme.

District Awami League and its student wing BCL brought out a joint procession at noon to drum up support for the hartal.

The marchers later held a rally in front of DC's office and called on the people to make the hartal a success. It was addressed, among others, by AL leaders Muslemuddin Khan and Golam Rasul.

Ruling BNP's student front JCD also took out a procession in the city in the morning demanding arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers of Paran and Milon.

The protesters later held a rally in front of the local BNP office and blamed the BCL activists for the killings.

DINAJPUR

### School teachers hold rally to press home demands

Apr 12: A big rally of private school teachers of the district was held at Dinajpur Institute on Thursday to press home their demand, reports UNB.

Presided over by Chowdhury Md Asaduzzaman Alam, it was also addressed by Abdul Latif, Abdul Wahed, Gul Nahar Begum, Abdus Sattar, Lutfar Rahman and Abdus Salam.

The speakers called upon the government to fulfil their legitimate demands immediately otherwise they would be forced to go for action programme.

After the rally a procession was brought out parading the main roads of the town. Later they submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

MAGURA

### Teacher's coop needed to develop edn policy

Apr 12: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Maj Gen (ret'd) M Majid-Ul-Haq emphasised the need for modern education system and high quality teachers' community to build dutiful students who will be able to fulfil the nation's requirement, says UNB.

The minister was addressing as chief guest in separate inaugural functions of four newly constructed buildings of four primary schools of the district on Sunday, an official handout said.

Majid-Ul-Haq, while detailing the education policy of the present government said, highest allocation has been given in education sector with a view to remove illiteracy from the country. He also said, without full cooperation of teachers, guardians and elite community of the country this programme would not be successful.

He said, some opposition political parties called unnecessary hartal which was neglected by the people. The minister thanked and congratulated the people for refusing this hartal which he said was called to disturb the dynamic development process of the government.

Later, the minister distributed HYV seeds and saplings among the participants of the day-long training course on 'household vegetables, fruits and livestock development', organised by local office of Agriculture Extension Department.