

National

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 corps section 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 Moyenuddin 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 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 Ganotri 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 Shulha 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 at Khoksha thana of the district 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 Abdul Kashem, former JP parliament member Abdul 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 install 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

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.

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 Jaynul 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.

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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 Sharaiatpur 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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 : Swapan Kumar Sarkar, a businessman of Khalispur bazar, in Mohespur thana of the district was injured in bomb throwing on him while trying to resist the dacoits.

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

On the other hand, 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

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

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.

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 Sujan.

Another report says : District Water Development Board constructed a 5-km long embankment at Jaintoli 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 Buddhist Kristi Prachar Sangha died of a heart attack at Chittagong Medical College Hospital here Thursday, reports UNB.

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

According to witnesses, Shaheen while returning from Sathkhira 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 nationwide 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 Muslemin 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.