

BDR-BSF flag meeting ends in disappointment

DINAJPUR, Apr 19: A flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) ended here on Thursday without any consensus over digging of trench along the border line by the BSF, reports UNB.

The BDR sources said, the Bangladesh side in the meeting urged their Indian counterpart to fill up the trench they had dugged during the last month within 150 yards of the border line at Hill. They said, according to the 1975 Border Pact no construction can be done within the mentioned areas of zero line.

But the BSF side reportedly set aside the Bangladesh proposal and both sides agreed to forward the matter to their higher authorities.

Held at the Hakimpur Dakbunglow, the Bangladesh side was led by Sector Commander Lt Col Hasan Ferooz while the Indian side by Sector Commander of Maldah Courtan.

Five food officials face corruption charges

PABNA, Apr 19: Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a case against five food officials of the district for alleged misappropriation of rice and wheat worth about Taka 13 lakh last week, reports UNB.

The accused are: Abdur Razzak, Transportation and Preservation Officer and Deputy Food Inspectors Md Sirajul Islam, Md Samiruddin, Md Abdul Gafur Talukder and Abu Shahadat of Iswardi food godown.

The case was filed with Iswardi thana and all the accused are absconding since filling of the case, Anti-Corruption Bureau sources said.

Notes from Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Apr 19: One person was killed and seven others received injuries in a clash between two agitated groups at village Panchgachi under Sunderganj thana on April 11.

According to report, land settlement is said to be cause of the clash. A quarrel started between the factions over the issue of measuring a plot. On that day after exchanging hot words the factions were locked into a fierce clash using deadly weapons. One, Moazzem Hossain, 60, was killed on way to hospital and seven others sustained injuries. A case was registered.

Young man stabbed

A youngman Bulbul, 18, of village Dhangara under Gaibandha sadar thana was stabbed at Deputy Commissioner's office premise recently in broad day light.

A group of young man attacked the victim with deadly weapons in front of DC's office over an issue of past enmity. The victim received serious stab injuries who was rushed to the local hospital in critical condition. A case was filed.

14 injured in group clash

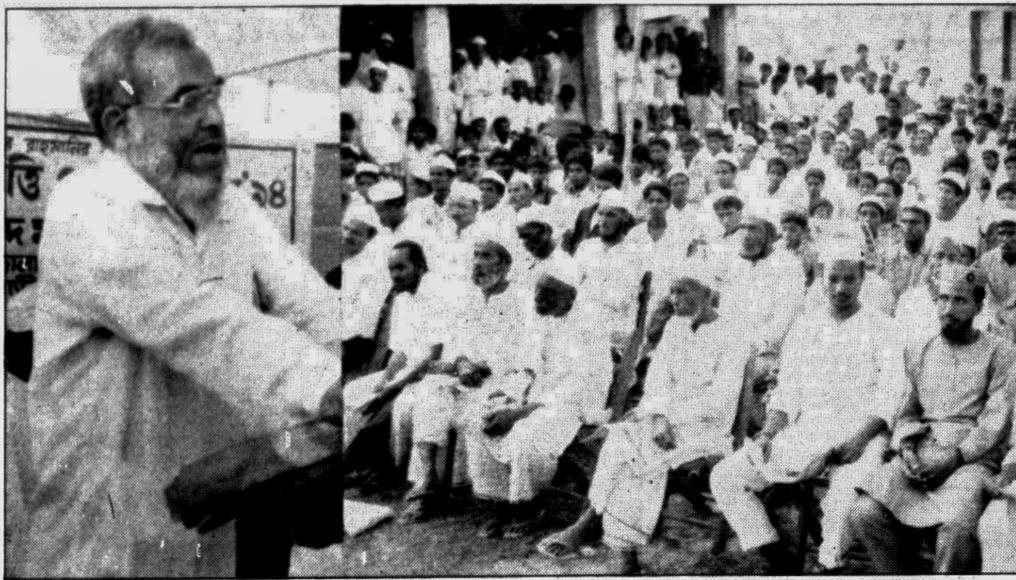
At least 14 persons received injuries in a clash over the issue of setting up of a fake madrasa at village Chakchaka under Gaibandha sadar thana recently.

According to report, on April 2 a meeting was held at said village with a view to set up a Madrasa that was protested by another group terming the attempt as a fake one. Soon there ensured a clash after exchanging hot words between two rival groups using lethal weapons. A total of 14 persons sustained injuries. The condition of four namely Rezaul, Atique, Moynu and Raju were stated to be critical and removed to local health complex.

Another report adds: A combined general meeting of three different units of Gaibandha press club was held at daily Sandhan premise recently. The meeting was presided over by Moklesur Rahman.

With a view to forming a single press club in the district an adhoc committee was constituted abolishing all previous committee of three different press clubs. On this occasion a seven member committee was also formed to prepare a constitution within 45 days.

The newly formed adhoc committee was comprised with Principal Moklesur Rahman as convener, Moklesur Rahman Khan and Dipak Kumar Pal as joint convener. The members are Gobinda Lal Das, Abu Zafar Sabu, K M Rezaul Hoque, S K Mazid Mukul, Mofizul Haque Tara, Zaharul Khatun, Abdus Samad Babu, Amitab Das Himun, Debashis Das Deb, Enamul Kabir Rupon, Shamim-ul-Huq Shaheen.



SYLHET: Professor Syed Mohibuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony and stipend distribution function of Kanaighat Chhatra Parishad held here recently. — Star photo

Jute cultivation target may fail in greater Jessore

JESSORE, Apr 17: Jute cultivation is likely to fail in achieving the target following acute scarcity of seeds in ten districts of South Western Zone of the country.

According to Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department supply of seeds was inadequate to meet the requirement. A total of 20 metric tons of seeds were supplied during this season while a total of eight hundred metric tons of seed were estimated for use to meet the demand of growers for cultivation on 1,12996 hectares at the rate of seven kgs per

From Our Correspondent

hectare. The supply was only a fraction of total need, the source added. It is learnt that the head office of BADC in Dhaka had sent 41 tons of seed for greater Jessore district. However the supply from seed processing centres was around 20 metric tons. This short supply deepened the crisis in the markets.

The total quantity of seeds were sold through 21 sales centres and 250 appointed dealers by end of March this year. It is reported that most of the growers tried to procure

the remaining needed seed either from blackmarkets at high rate or by smuggling from across the border due to supply problems.

A source said, BADC on no account, will be in a position to supply the total requirement of seeds.

It is alleged that distribution of seed by sales centres and dealers were not fair at all.

The present dual system in seed distribution is creating problems in the markets. It is obvious that scarcity of seeds will be the main cause in the failure of achieving that target this year.

Fire destroys 116 dwelling houses, huge property

SATKHIRA, Apr 19: Some 116 dwelling houses were gutted during a nor'wester that hit two thanas of the district Sunday, reports UNB.

The fire originated from kitchens and soon engulfed the adjoining areas as the nor'wester hit the areas at about 2.30 pm.

The extent of damage may run up to Taka one crore, villagers said.

Some 2,000 kutcha houses in Kalganj and Debhata thana were partially damaged during the storm. Police said, 25 houses were gutted at Nagri village in Debhata thana, 55 in Tarali village.

Dairy, poultry farming becoming more popular: Noman

MYMENSINGH, Apr 19: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al-Noman said, the government was contemplating to mobilise all available resource personnel for speedy and planned development of livestock sector, says UNB.

The minister was addressing as chief guest at a symposium on "Livestock Development Strategies in Bangladesh" organised by the Veterinary Faculty of Bangladesh Agriculture University at Zainul Abedin auditorium Sunday, said an official handout.

Noman said, the role of dairy and poultry farming as income-generating activities, providing opportunities for self-employment, is now greatly accepted and the people are gradually coming forward to engage themselves in this field with more enthusiasm.

Presided over by the Dean of the Veterinary Faculty Prof Mozammel Huq, the function was addressed by Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Shah Muhammad Faruk as special guest.

He also said, present government, with personal initiative of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, has taken some positive measures to create strong infrastructure for the livestock development in the country.

In the symposium, the keynote paper was presented by Dr Muhammad Hafizur Rahman while Dr Khandaker Sirajul Islam, Dr Abdul Jalil Sarker, Dr Maniklal Dewan and Fazlul Huq took part in the discussion.

Top priority given to remove rural poverty

KOTBARI (Comilla), Apr 19: Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan Sunday said the government has attached top priority to the alleviation of rural poverty, says UNB.

The minister was addressing the certificate distribution ceremony of a 3-week long commonwealth regional training course on "Poverty Focused Rural Development of Economic and Social Infrastructure" at BARD conference room Sunday morning.

Rural women are being imparted skill training so that they can improve their socio-economic conditions by undertaking income generating programmes, the minister told the function.

Presided over by BARD Director General Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, the function was addressed, among others, by its BARD Director (Training) Abdul Quddus and Course Director Makbul Ahmed, Begum Rabeya Chowdhury, MP was also present.

A total of 18 people from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tonga and Western Samoa and the host Bangladesh took part in the programme.

Later, the minister distributed certificates among the participants.

Bus services remain suspended in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Apr 19: Bus service in Sirajganj-Belkuchi route remains suspended since April 16 last causing sufferings to thousands of passengers.

Following a clash among the bus workers and the passengers on fare issue at Subararsa where seven persons were injured. Two seriously injured persons were admitted to a local clinic.

Measures to check crimes

NOAKHALI, Apr 19: The meeting of district Law and order sub-committee was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference hall, reports UNB.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Noakhali Md Mashiur Rahman, it was attended by the members of the committee including SP, Noakhali.

The meeting held last week reviewed the law and order situation of the district and adopted some resolutions to combat the growing crimes in the district.

It has been noted that the crimes in some thanas have increased in recent times and thana administrations and police officers-in-charge of police stations have been asked to take necessary measures to check the growing trend without fear of favour.

The meeting discussed the unauthorised possession and subletting of the government quarters, drug addiction, private trawler movement in Hatiya Ferry ghat and decided to take action against all these illegal activities.

District roundup

COMILLA

Students asked to acquire adequate knowledge

Apr 19: Shipping Minister M K Anwar said here Monday that the students should acquire adequate knowledge for shouldering the future responsibility of the nation, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting of the teachers and students of Mathabhaga Bhairab High School in Homna thana under Comilla district presided over by Fazlur Rahman, vice president of the managing committee of the school. The meeting was also addressed by the Headmaster of the school, Fazlul Haque.

The minister said, the government attached priority to education sector and made the highest allocation in the current year's national budget. He said the government was very much aware of the problems of the teachers of educational institutions of the country which would be properly looked into. He said all educational institutions would be provided with pucca buildings in phases.

Anwar stressed the need for intensifying the curricular activities of the students. He said, debate and cultural programmes should be arranged by the students in all schools and college. He also said, games and sports should be regularly arranged for developing the mental and physical health of the students.

Earlier the minister went round different sections of the recently constructed building of the school which had been constructed with the assistance of the government at a cost of about Taka nine lakh.

KHULNA

Education policy being streamlined: Speaker

Apr 19: Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razaque Ali Sunday reiterated that the present government was pledged bound to eradicate illiteracy from the society, reports BSS.

He said, the government had been streamlining education policy for making it more dynamic and effective.

The speaker was addressing the biennial Khulna regional conference of Bangladesh Government Secondary Teachers Association at Zia Hall Auditorium.

Presided over by Abdul Quayum Khan Choudhury, President of Khulna Branch of the association, the conference was addressed, among others, by Secretary General of the association Nazrul Islam and Director of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Zohdul Haque.

Referring to the pioneering role being played by the teacher's community in spreading and improving the standard of education Shaikh Razaque Ali said, dedicated teachers, congenial academic atmosphere and conscious guardians were the pre-requisites for making the nation educated. A nation which did not pay respect to its teachers could not achieve real progress and prosperity, he observed.

FARIDPUR

Annual prize distribution ceremony held

Apr 19: The annual prize distribution function of local Govt. Sarada Sundary Mahilla College was held at the college premises recently, reports BSS.

About two hundred students received prizes in literary and cultural sections, sports, debate and indoor-games competitions.

Basanti Rani Podder became champion in sports, Jesmin Sharifa in literary performances and Milla Islam in cultural performances for the session 1993-94.

K M Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur was the chief guest in the function while Azur Rahman, Police Super and Hoaneara Huda, were the special guests. The function was presided over by Professor Mian Lutfar Rahman, Principal of the college.

A large number of local elite and guardians of the students attended the colourful function. It may be mentioned here that this college received the best college award from the government for the session 1993-94.

BARISAL

911 pry students awarded scholarships

Apr 19: A total of 911 students from six southern districts of Barisal Division received primary scholarship this year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the examinations of the primary scholarships were held in 40 centres of the division in December 1993 last.

Of the total 187 students were awarded talent pool scholarships of Taka 50 each per month while 724 students general scholarships of Taka 30 each per month, the source said.

Altogether 11,872 students including 4345 girls took part in this examination from six districts.

Of the total, 52 students were awarded talent pool and 192 students general scholarships from Barisal district, 19 students talent pool and 66 students general scholarships from Jhalakati, 32 students talent pool and 107 students general scholarships from Pirojpur, 28 students talent pool and 134 students general scholarships from Bhola 34 students talent pool and 136 students general scholarships from Patuakhali, and 22 students talent pool and 88 students general scholarships from Barguna districts.

MAGURA

Nor'wester damages 2000 houses, 50 hurt

Apr 19: At least 50 people were injured and more than 2,000 kutcha houses damaged when a severe nor'wester lashed over 20 villages of Salikha thana in the district Sunday evening, reports UNB.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to the local health complex.

The worst affected unions are: Gangarampur, Shatokhall, Bunagathi, Shalikka and Talkhari.

Boro and other standing crops on vast areas of land were also damaged in the storm.

KUSHLIA

Seminar on human rights problem held

Apr 19: A seminar on "Human Rights Problem and its Solution" was held at the Islamic University Campus Saturday, reports UNB.

Organised by Law and Jurisprudence Faculty of the University, it was attended by Vice-Chancellor Abdul Hamid as chief guest.

Eminent lawyer and chairman of the Legal Education Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister Amirul Islam presented the key-note paper at the seminar.

In this paper Barrister Amirul Islam emphasised the need for evaluating the human right situation in the existing social structure apart from its legal and constitutional procedure in the third world countries.

In this respect, he said universities, professional organisations or groups, national institutions like parliament could play a vital role in implementing the human rights in the society in a proper manner.

He said, "laws which remain unwritten and are abiding by the people spontaneously are the strongest laws."

"But in the developing countries rights and obligations of the people can not be established by simple laws as most of the people are living below the poverty level", he added.

SIRAJGANJ

Two killed in separate road accidents

Apr 19: Two people were killed and five others injured in two separate accidents on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway Monday, reports UNB.

A Tempo collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction at Chandidagati village in sadar thana Monday morning killing one, Abdul Karim, 25 on the spot and injuring five others.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

The Bogra-bound truck fled the scene after the accident. In another accident at Zikra in Ullapara thana, a pedestrian was run over by a speeding truck while crossing road at 9 am.

The victim was identified as Nazrul Islam, 35.

Kuthibari could be a profitable tourist spot

by Fakrunessa

The Kuthibari or the estate house of the Tagores is situated at Shelaidaha village eight miles away from Kushtia town across the river Gori. Twenty-five years before Rabindranath set up the Visha-Bharati at Santiniketan, he had thought of establishing a similar institution at Shelaidaha. Many feel the government is again here decision to hold state-level celebration of the poet's birth anniversary every year on Baishakh 25 at Shelaidaha has been a step forward that. The Kuthibari can as will be developed as a tourist resort. But that would need a lot of things to be done.

The celebration of Rabindra Joyanti at Shelaidaha on the state level fulfilled a long-felt demand. The Kuthibari stands as a monument to human excellence. It deeply influence his life and paved his way to become an all time great in spheres of literature, music and painting. Pramathanath Bishi, a noted

Khan by the Nawab himself. Rani Bhabani of Natore founded a temple at Khorshedpur adjacent to Shelaidaha Kuthibari. The village, Khorshedpur is named after the great sufi saint Khorshed Shah who lived and died there.

During the early East India Company period there lived a tyrant indigo planter, Shelley by name and the village Shelaidaha is believed to have derived its name from him. The Tagores bought the Kuthibari from Shelley and his associates. When it was badly hit by the Padma river erosion Rabindranath Tagore with the help of his elder brother Jyotirindranath Tagore decided to shift the Kuthibari to the present site. Rathindranath Tagore, the only son of Rabindranath Tagore reconstructed the present Kuthibari with a design and structure different from the poet's.

The Shelaidaha Kuthibari is spread over six bighas of land and an artistic boundary wall

kept in a very improper way. The historic pond is covered up with water hyacinth.

But Kuthibari could easily be turned into a tourists resort with its lush green scenery, the verdant meadows glittering sandy stretches and picturesque landscape together with the panoramic view of the great Padma. The scenic lushness of Shelaidaha offers abundant avenues for exploration. It was in fact, the beauty of Shelaidaha that attracted the great poet to it.

It was Shelaidaha where Tagore came in contact with the bauls, and possibly even Lalan. The songs of Lalan Shah and other baul poets made a deep imprint on the poet's mind. The impact of the baul poets was so much that he also introduced himself as Rabi baul in a number of his works. While making comments on Lalan and other bauls of Shelaidaha, the poet said, "these people roam about singing their songs one of which I heard years ago from my roadside window, the first two lines remaining inscribed in my memory."

Scientist Jagadish Chandra Bose.

Tagore also founded a primary school after the name of his son's wife Pratima Devi. He also initiated co-operative movement at Shelaidaha and set up a folklore museum. The two famous palanquins, one carried by 16 bearers and the other carried by 18 bearers have been kept preserved by the Department of Archaeology at Shelaidaha for public view. The famous boat Padma by which the poet sailed the great rivers is missing. The Chapala, a steam boat, is still there.

After liberation, the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs decided to improve the condition of the Kuthibari. A scheme was drawn up. Colourful functions on the occasion of the poet's birth day of 25th Baisakh came to be celebrated at the Kuthibari. People from distant parts of the country thronged the Kuthibari premises and paid homage to the great poet who once lived here and composed

'Nobody can tell whence the bird unknown Comes into cage and goes out

I would feign put round its feet the fetter of my mind could

I but capture it (Lalan Geeti)

Shelaidaha brought him very close to nature. He studied man in relation to nature. Nature to him was a 'motion and a spirit'. In Shelaidaha he started collecting folk songs and folkloric materials. He also collected regional dialects with a view to showing the richness of Bengali language. His conception of art took a definite turn as he collected terra cotta and clay models from different areas of Kushtia district. In 1915-16 when Mohitlal Majumder visited Kuthibari of Kushtia, he had seen what a tremendous interest Tagore had developed in the collection of folkloric materials. The poet wanted to shape the Kuthibari as the nerve centre of Bangali culture. But unfortunately, the dream of Tagore is yet to be materialised.

The folklore of illiterate people has a definite contribution to our culture. The Kuthibari of Tagore at Shelaidaha could easily be developed into a national folklore institute including a folk museum. The construction of the building of Kuthibari bears evidence of folkloric idea of the poet.

A research library could also be set up with a view to helping the students carrying on research on Tagore. There is a road linking Kuthibari where there is a rest house too. The Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation has many things to do here. Kuthibari draws the interest of the whole world. Every year people from different areas do visit Kushtia.



Little more care could invite more tourists to the Kuthibari, Shelaidaha.

scholar and a close associate of the poet made a comment that, had the poet been a little late in reaching Shelaidaha his genius might have followed a different course. Tagore himself in a number of his works gratefully acknowledged what a tremendous influence Shelaidaha exerted on him particularly in the realm of poems.

Tagore came here to look after their zemindari in the Brahimpur Pargana. Prince Dwarakanath Tagore, the grandfather of the poet bought the zemindari in an auction in the year 1800 A.D. Earlier, this was held by the great Sitaram Roy of Mohammapur in Jessore. It was later handed over to the Maharaj of Natore, King Bahunandan an appointee of Nawab Murshid Kuli

which reflects the waves of the Padma. The Kuthibari is a two and a half storied building and has fifteen rooms. The bed-room of the poet is on the eastern part of the first floor overlooking the mighty river Padma and a vast mango grove said to have been bought from Upon of Shelaidaha, one whom Tagore immortalised in his poem Dui Bigha Jomi. There is a small ethic on the top floor. It was the poet's retiring room and all too often he lived here like a hermit. There was a terrace at one side of the Kuthibari where lived Professor Lawrence who used to teach Rathindranath Tagore, the poet's only son. C F Andrews also lived with the poet for sometime at the Kuthibari along with the fa-

his great poetical works which earned him the Nobel Prize for literature. The whole Kuthibari then looked very much festive. But when the function was over not a single drum beat was heard and the Kuthibari faded out into oblivion.

The archaeological department has, however, appointed a custodian to look after the Kuthibari. But this is not enough. The authority concerned should take up some practical measures with regard to its development. There are no collections of Tagore's works. Some reprinted photographs of Tagore and other members of his family are hung on the walls of Kuthibari in a most slovenly manner. Things use by the poet are