

National

WASA engineer suspended for neglecting duty

CHITTAGONG, Apr 25: Chittagong WASA authority Saturday suspended another engineer and two other employees for their alleged negligence of duty, official sources said, reports BSS.

Earlier, two engineers were suspended for their alleged negligence leading to collapse of an overhead water tank in which four people were killed and 23 others injured a few days back.

Those who were suspended were Executive Engineer Niazur Rahman Khan, pump operator Kuddushur Rahman and assistant pump operator Jahangir Alam, the sources said.

Another report adds: Railways police recovered an unidentified body from a compartment of Chittagong University shuttle train at Battali Railway Station here Saturday.

According to police, the body of a male person aged about 45 which was recovered from one of the bogies of the waiting train bore no mark of injury.

The cause of the death could not be ascertained.

26 students held on charge of creating anarchy

KHULNA, Apr 25: Police Sunday stormed the Khulna Polytechnic Institute and rescued its principal and some teachers who were held hostage by a group of students, reports BSS.

They also detained some 26 students on charge of creating anarchy on the campus.

A pipe gun, several hand bombs and knives were recovered from some of those students, police said.

Sources in the campus said, a group of students who had failed in the referred examination gheraoed the teachers, keeping them hostage for about four hours.

The unruly students also blasted some hand bombs during their demonstration that started at about 10:00 am. They allegedly abused the teachers.

Police raided the campus at 2:00 pm and picked up the students. A case has been filed with Khalishpur Police Station.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 25: Production resumed in the natural gas fertilizer factory at Fenchuganj Friday afternoon after being stopped for five days.

Production in the factory, a subsidiary of BCIC was stopped following a severe blast in the power plant recently. The breakdown caused damage to several panel boards in the plant.

Four students hurt in bomb blast

Four students were injured when several crackers were blasted during a series of chasing and counter chasing between the rival groups of Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal in Sylhet town Thursday afternoon.

The incident ensued when the newly formed convening committee brought out a procession demanding the punishment of terrorists within the party.

It may be stated here that, the central committee of JCD Sylhet was dissolved few days.

Meanwhile, the ex-president of Sylhet district JCD and coordinator for the greater Sylhet region, Badruzzaman Selim was attacked recently. His car was damaged as several crackers were blasted. However, he escaped unharmed.

10 injured in storm

At least ten persons were injured as a nor'wester hit different areas of Sylhet town and its suburb recently.

Several thousand kutch houses were damaged while a large number of trees were uprooted and standing crops on vast tracts of land were damaged.

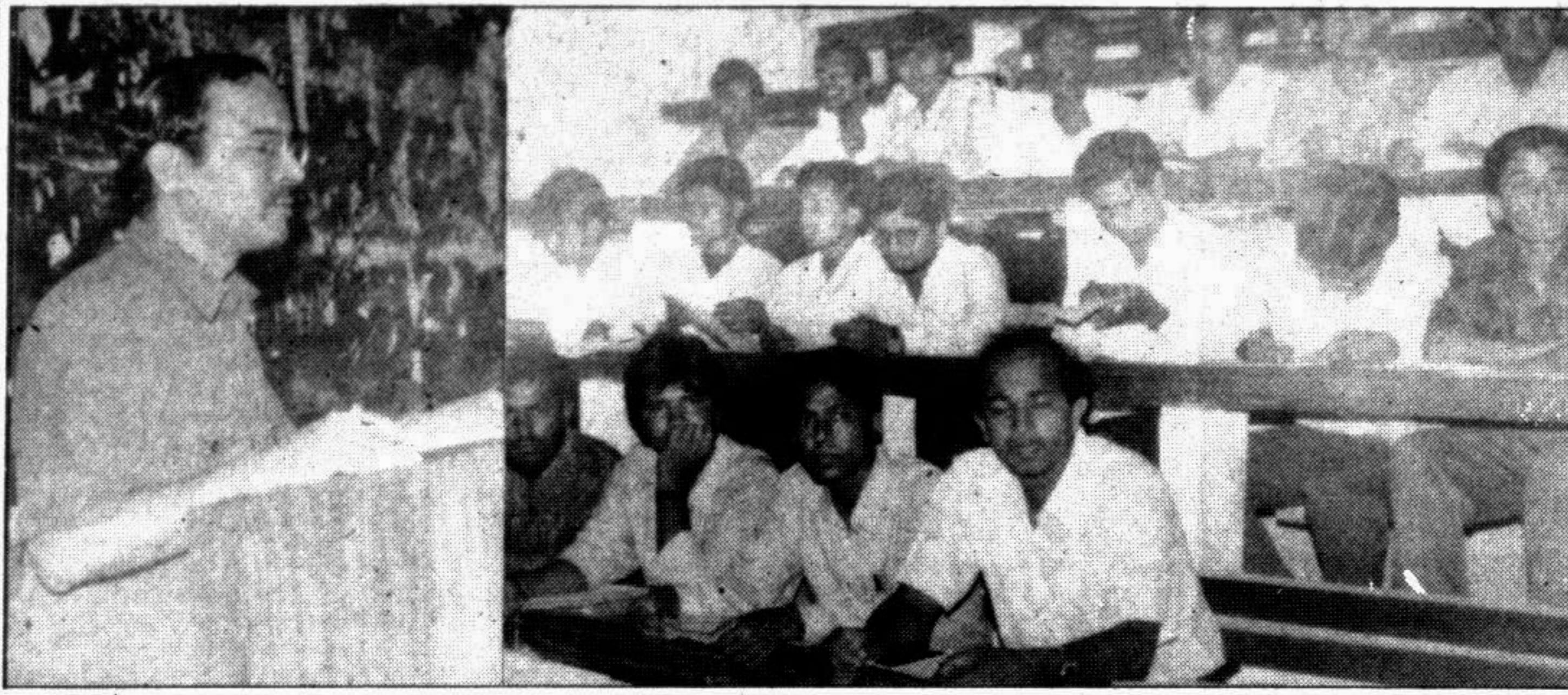
However, there was no report of any casualty.

Body recovered from hotel room

Kotwali police recovered a body of a young man from a residential hotel of Bandarbarazar area of Sylhet town Saturday.

The victim, along with a companion rented a room in the hotel on April 20. They had introduced themselves as Shahid and Shahid of village Sharatnagar, Burichang PS of Comilla. On suspicion the hotel authority informed the police. Police recovered the body by breaking open the door while the other border had been missing.

The body was sent to the M G Osmany Medical College Hospital for postmortem. A case has been registered.



Professor Abdun Noor, Department of Public Administration, Chittagong University is seen presenting a key-note paper titled, Education and Human Resource Development recently.

— CU photo

IRRI, boro output target may fail in Greater Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

KISOREGANJ, Apr 25: The target of IRRI-boro cultivation taken up by the Agricultural Extension Department in five districts of greater Mymensingh region may fail.

Abnormal high prices of different inputs, shortage of bullocks for tilling the lands, high prices of fuel, faulty system of irrigation equipment, shortage of supply of the high yielding varieties of seeds etc are the main reasons behind the failure of the project.

According to an official source, a massive programme was taken up in all the five districts of the region during the season to bring a total of 4,94,200 hectares of land under boro cultivation during the season.

The government in the meantime has withdrawn the rental system of supplying the irrigation equipment to the farmers. These machines are now being sold by the BADC.

Repeated and abnormal rise in the prices of different kinds of chemical fertilizers has also victimised the situation.

Disbursement of the special agricultural loans is not at all satisfactory, it is alleged. Though there is sufficient amount of money sanctioned by the different nationalised commercial banks for distribution of loans among the farmers including Bangladesh Krishibank, the disbursement position is quite below the target, it is learnt from an official

source.

Most of the staff and officials of the banks in the remote areas are found less interested in disbursing the loans to the small farmers, it is alleged. However, a section of influential people and the village leaders were receiving the loans. Even most of the poor farmers have to seek loans through these selected groups for obtaining loans from the banks, it is alleged.

The bank officials very often disappoint the interested farmers in providing them with the loans on the plea of not submitting sufficient documents and papers which as become a regular affair.

One arrested on charge of murder

Kishoreganj police in a raid led by Abdul Matin officer-in-charge of Kishoreganj police station arrested Harun-ur-Rashid, an SSC examinee of Arjat Afarjan High School, Kishoreganj, one of the accused in Emdadul Haque Kabir murder case from village Swalpa Maria under Sadar thana recently.

Emdadul Haque Kabir, an SSC examinee was stabbed by miscreants near the complain centre of Power Development Board in Kishoreganj town while he was returning home after enjoying cinema show on February at night. He died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital next morning.

The total target of paddy production had also been fixed at 13,16,400 metric tonnes, the source added. It in-

Stomach, skin diseases in alarming proportion

KUSHTIA, Apr 25: Skin disease and stomach ailments have broken out in the district in an alarming proportion, reports UNB.

Doctors said patients with intestinal disorder and itching are pouring to the hospitals for treatment.

The causes behind the outbreak of the diseases are attributed to consumption of adulterated edibles as ghee, butteroil, mustard oil and milk.

People of the area said the items are being sold in the local markets freely before the very nose of the law enforcing agencies.

Besides, sale of unwholesome eatables in hotels and restaurants have worsened the position here.

It is alleged that the unscrupulous traders with the connivance of some officials are engaged in the malpractice for long since.

But no action has yet been taken by the district administration against the dishonest traders despite repeated appeals by the sufferers.

Of them, the agricultural sector is badly hit. Repeated natural calamities like flooding, drought, river erosion, unabated pest attack vis-a-vis rise in prices of pesticides and fertilizers have caused sharp decline in the agricultural production during the last few years.



A total of 107 families in two thanas namely Debhata, Kaligonj of Sathkhira district were rendered homeless as their houses were burnt to ashes following a devastating fire which broke out here on April 17. Photo shows one of the houses affected by the fire incident.

Shahbazpur gas exploration drilling work in progress

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 25: The drilling work for gas exploration at Shahbazpur in Borhanuddin thana of Bhola district is going on. In the meantime, government has sanctioned 35 crore taka for this project. All necessary equipment and materials were already imported.

About 10 trillion cubic feet of natural gas are likely to be available on 5,180 square metres area at Shahbazpur drilling site at a dept of 1,900 metres to 3,000.

Over 1,200 meters of drilling work will be done in the project — it is expected.

According to sources, about 98 per cent of the fire incidents had occurred for carelessness of the people and most of fire originated from the cooking burner, burning cigarettes etc.

This loss could be minimised if the fire brigade could be equipped with modern amenities including adequate number of water tank lorry, ambulance etc, said an assistant director of fire service and civil defence of the district.

There are only three Fire Service Centres for 32 lakh people in 12 thanas and three municipal areas of Jamalpur and Sherpur districts.

Local people said no step has yet been taken to set up fire service centres in Bakshigunj, Nalitabari, Islampur and Madarganj thana headquarters.

According to sources, a gang of dacoits numbering about 12 entered the house of Rangui Miah, 35 by breaking open the door on April 15. They tied both, Rangui Miah and his wife with a rope and decamped with the valuables safely.

A case has been filed with the police.

Another report adds: A man was killed in a road accident at Madhaya on Dhaka-Chittagong trunk road on April 11.

The victim, a truck helper whose name could not be known died on the spot when another Comilla bound truck hit his truck from behind. His vehicle was parked on the road.

Police seized both the trucks but both the drivers managed to escape.

CHANDPUR

Lightning kills three of a family

Apr 25: Three people of a family were killed by lightning when they were fishing in the river Meghna on Saturday, local fishermen said, reports UNB.

All of them happened to be brothers hailed from Haimchar thana of the district but their identity could not be known immediately.

Witnesses said, these fishermen while fishing hilsha were struck by the lightning during a tornado that swept over Char Ibrahimpur union in Sadar thana of the district.

GAIBANDHA

Establishment of river port urged

Apr 25: Leaders of the Balshi river-port movement and implementation committee have urged the government to construct a river port at Balshi for the convenience of the common man, reports UNB.

The call came at a meeting of the action committee on Sunday which was addressed by local political party leaders including ruling BNP and Awami League with Lutfar Rahman Balshi in the chair.

Considering the greater interest they demanded to construct railway ferry ghat at Balshi instead of Fuihchari.

The speakers also urged the concerned authorities to construct rail line from Trimohini to Balshi which will be helpful for the greater number of people.

JESSORE

Shopowners' rally protests terrorism act

Apr 25: A procession organised by JESSORE unit of Dokan Malik Samity Federation was held Saturday to protest against the terrorists and tole extortions, reports BSS.

The procession, participated by Tele-Communication Minister Tariqul Islam, was marched through main roads of JESSORE town, raised slogans against drug addiction, terrorism and extortions. The processionists also carried anti-hartal placards.



Some areas of Noakhali and Luxmipur districts were hit by nor'wester recently. Pictures show some of the damaged houses and electric lines.

District roundup

JAMALPUR

Property worth Tk 33.75 lakh gutted in 125 fire incidents

Apr 25: Property worth about Taka 33.75 lakh was burnt to ashes in some 125 fire incidents here during last year, fire brigade source said, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Rezaul Islam, 25, helper of the bus.

Police said, the Chatmohar-bound bus skidded off the road as the driver tried to overtake a bullock cart. One of the bullocks also died in the accident.

Twelve of the injured were admitted to Chatmohar Health Complex and three to the sadar hospital here.

A case was filed with Chatmohar police.

COMILLA

Valuables worth Tk 1.5 lakh looted

Apr 25: Dacoits stormed a house at a village in Nangalkot thana and looted valuables and cash worth about Taka 1.50 lakh, police said Saturday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering about 12 entered the house of Rangui Miah, 35 by breaking open the door on April 15. They tied both, Rangui Miah and his wife with a rope and decamped with the valuables safely.

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SATHKURA

Villagers asked to create more self-employment works

Apr 25: The newly constructed building of Sarulla socio-economic development centre was inaugurated Friday, reports BSS.

The centre is run by the Sathkhura branch of Bangladesh Shishu Sasthya (Health) Foundation.

Presided over by president of the foundation renowned child specialist Dr M R Khan, the inaugural function was addressed among others by Professor Ali Ahmed, Editor Dainik Anirban, Deputy Commissioner, Sathkhura, Mujibur Rahman, consultant of Palli Unnayan Prakalpa, Pangren, Editor of Dainik Kafila, Abdul Mutalib, former member of parliament Alauddin, Secretary of Export Development Bureau, Syed Sahed Ali and Director Palli Unnayan Prakalpa, Sathkhura.

Speaking on the occasion Kamru Islam Suddique, Chief Engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department stressed the need for creating self-employment opportunities for the huge unemployed rural population through extending facilities for setting up of rural-based cottage industries, poultry farming, kitchen gardening.

The six-hour programme was called by the greater Sylhet Ganabadi Parishad (Hamid-Shafiq).

A meeting was also held during the strike with Abdul Hamid Advocate, president of the organisation in the chair while it was also addressed among others by Professor Shafiqur Rahman, Nurul Islam, Advocate Abdur Rakib, Nurul Chowdhury and Professor Abdul Muhib.

The procession, participated by Tele-Communication Minister Tariqul Islam, was marched through main roads of JESSORE town, raised slogans against drug addiction, terrorism and extortions. The processionists also carried anti-hartal placards.