

Farmers demand trial of those who created fertilizer crisis

JAMALPUR, Apr 12: Thousands of farmers Tuesday demonstrated near the Jamuna Fertiliser Factory (JFF) demanding trial of those involved in creating fertiliser crisis in the area. Reports UNB.

They alleged that some local political leaders and a section of dishonest officials of the factory were involved in blackmarketing at least 30,000 metric tons of fertiliser.

Later, Sharishabari thana Awami Sangram Parishad held a protest rally at Pughaldigha High School premises adjacent to the factory, where some 10,000 farmers gathered.

Central leaders of the Awami League, including Mohammod Nasim and Begum Matia Chowdhury, Juba League leader Mirza Azim and local AL leaders spoke at the rally.

Few report news of birth, death for registration in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 12: Registration of birth and death are not maintained properly by both parents as well as the Cox's Bazar pourashava and union parishads authorities of the district, it was learnt recently while visiting these offices.

Complications arise during admission in any institutions. Due to absence of exact date of birth, job seekers, examinees of secondary school certificate, applicants of passport have been suffering much.

Moreover, authorities of the hospitals, clinics, maternity centre, mother and child health care centres of the district do not report about the birth of a baby to the concerned authority, it was alleged.

The local bodies find it dif-

ficult to chalk out programmes to meet the needs of a population.

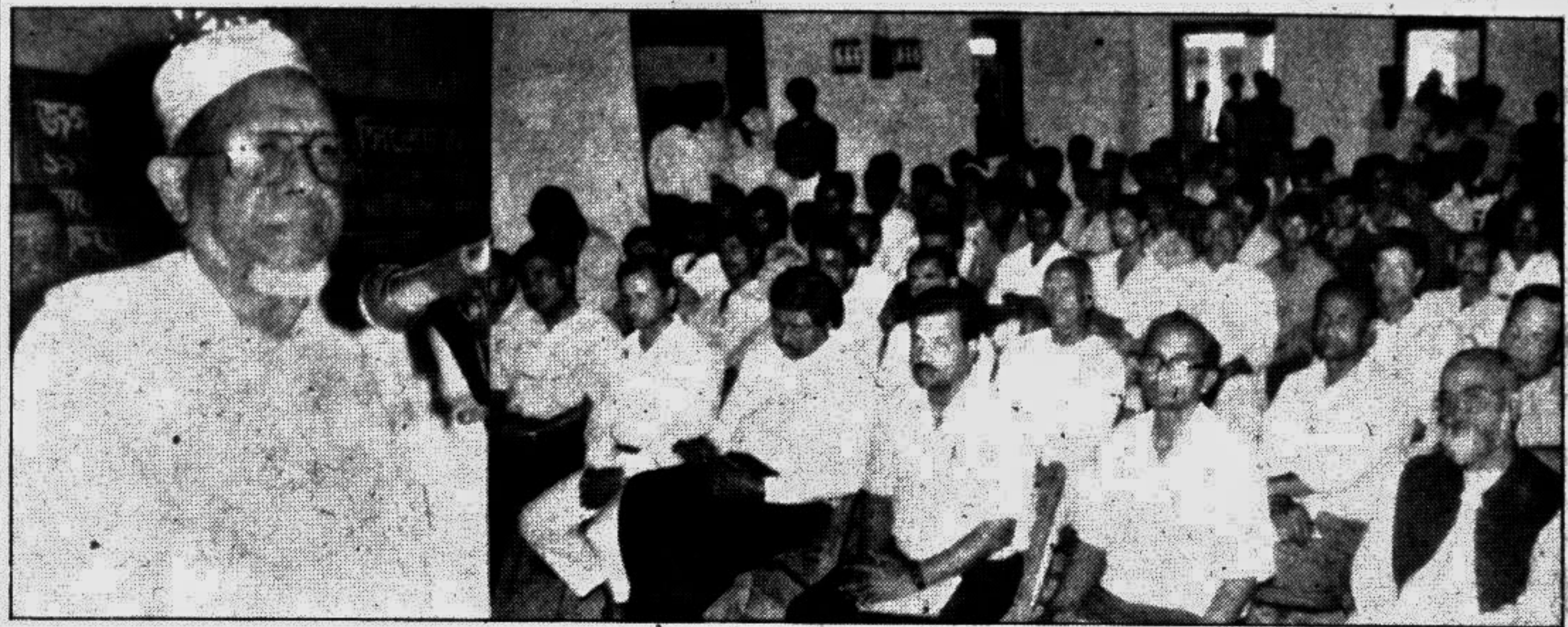
It is informed that, the pourashava do not possess any record of the figure of birth and death registration for last few years.

Under the provision of the existing law, parents are to register the name and particulars of a new born baby with the local bodies like pourashava and union parishad within 90 days of birth. Besides, the health workers are also supposed to collect information about the new born baby and register the name with the local bodies. The parents of a new born baby have to pay a fine of Taka five if they fail to report with the local authority within the stipulated time.

At present, authorities ask for birth certificate from those who seek admission at any institution, jobs centre require passports and migration papers.

According to Cox's Bazar pourashava authority they issued about five hundred birth certificates in last three years. Birth certificates were issued by pourashava to persons who were born 20 years back, it is reported.

There is very small amount of fees to be paid while collecting birth certificate from pourashava or union parishads. Some birth certificate seekers however, complained that a section of staff of pourashava and union parishads charge between Taka 100 and 300 for a birth certificate and some times even higher.



SYLHET: Member of the Awami League Presidium Alhaj Abdus Samad Azad speaking at the reception to the meritorious students arranged at Jagannathpur thana headquarters by Jagannathpur Samity on Wednesday last. —Star photo

Allegation of corruption Major rural road development works in progress in Noakhali

From Our Correspondent

NOAKHALI, Apr 12: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been implementing repair and reconstruction works of sixteen roads under food for works programme in three thanas of Noakhali district at the cost of 1789 metric tons (MT) of wheat which was allotted earlier.

The Executive Engineer, LGED, Noakhali, Mohammad Golam Mostafa Patowary informed The Daily Star that under food for works programme 247 MT of wheat was allotted for the repair and re-construction of the Sonapur Akhter Mirhat Road of Sadar thana and other 15 roads under general allotment from the government's own source.

He added that ten roads at Begumgonj thana, two roads at Senbag thana and four roads at Sadar thana are now under construction. After completion of the project some ten lakh people will get benefit from it. He further mentioned that the wheat allotted for rural road works (RRW), of the

Bazra Battali road 50.49 MT was sanctioned, for Mukilla Bhorer Bazar road 42.68 MT, for Norothampur Nateshar road 69.45 MT, for Banglabazar Jiriali road 87.25 MT, for Kashipur-Bazra road 82.33 MT, for Apania-Gopalpur road 78.71 MT, for Suregopur-Shantirhat road 111.77 MT, for Amin Bazar-Chaiany road 88.60 MT, for Thamarhat-Jumudpur road 79.52 MT, and for Mogadia-Kalikapur road 63.57 MT of wheat were sanctioned.

In Begumgonj thana, for construction of Senbag-Crosh-Munshi road 90 MT of wheat were sanctioned, Senbag-Dhupur road 130 MT, Senbag thana for construction of Old Hospital road 315 MT, for Noakhali Bangla Bazar Khasher Hat Road 123 MT and for Kabirhat Chaprashirhat Road via Natun Shajirhat road 140 MT of wheat were sanctioned.

According to official sources, the LGED, Noakhali, is implementing these works through Project Implementation Committee (PIC) headed by local Union Parishad Chairman of the project area.

When this correspondent visited some project areas it was found that there was virtually no stock of wheat in the Government Local Supply Depot (LSD).

The labourers who were working in these area alleged that the PIC chairman pay them in cash by violating the rules of the programme and added that the PIC chairman sold the allotted wheats to food grain smugglers in advance after receiving the work order from the department. The shipment of the wheat were reportedly distributed to the smugglers before they even arrived in the area.

When the matter of wheat lifting was brought to the attention of the Executive Engineer of LGED, he made no comments. However, he said the Assistant Engineer and Sub Assistant Engineer of LGED supervised the progress of the works regularly and 80 per cent works have been completed.

Woman killed as she tries to save her son

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 12: A woman was allegedly killed by a group of armed men as she tried to save her son from their attack last night in Mirganj area under Fatulla thana.

Police said some armed youths last night raided the house of Akram Hossain, 18, as a sequel to a previous enmity.

When the youths attacked Akram, his mother Amrat Banu, 60, intervened to stop the violence. The youths hit the mother with a brick on her head killing her on the spot.

The youths escaped from the area immediately. A case was filed with the Fatulla thana.

Two killed in separate incidents in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 12: Two persons were killed and another seriously injured in two separate incidents in Sallakupa thana of the district during last twelve hours.

Reports say, Abdul Kuddus, 28, of village Satgachi in Sallakupa thana was killed when a tractor fell into a ditch near Majumderpara in same thana Monday morning at 7 am. Kuddus was travelling on the tractor (No. Kushtia E-943). The driver of the tractor, Sirajul Islam, 25, received serious injuries. He was rushed to Jhenidah sadar hospital in critical condition.

According to another report, an unknown person aged about 30 was killed under the wheels of a Kushtia-bound speeding truck Sunday night at Sheikhpura near Islami University.

The victim while trying to get off from another vehicle at about 11 pm, suddenly fell down and was crushed to death on the spot.

Separate cases were filed with Sallakupa police station and the bodies were sent to morgue.

People of storm hit Munshiganj recall bitter experiences

By A K M Mohsin back from Munshiganj

Apr 12: Thousands of people are now living under open sky virtually without any facility for drinking water following last Saturday's tornado that hit the district leaving at least 26 dead and more than 500 seriously injured.

The worst affected areas of the district were Paise, Maizgon, Kalikatha, Bhugdia, Palgon, Gaondia, Darahat and Kurigram. All these villages in

the sky went unusually dark. I wondered why. Then before I could even blink my eyes it started blowing everything. I rushed to the nearest building where many of my neighbours also had taken shelter later on. It lasted about four to six minutes. When I opened my eyes, I could not believe that everything was razed to ground.

There were many casualties. Many people were even

whom suffered cut injuries.

The storm left at least 2500 houses damaged each of which cost between Tk eight lakh and fifteen lakh. According to the local people goods worth about Tk five crore were totally destroyed most of which include vegetable, business establishments and crop.

This correspondent while visiting Paise and Gaondia vil-

were found shocked at the incident. Many of whom have lost even cash money hidden in their houses say they never experienced such storm.

Samad Khan, a victim of the storm, was found buying flattened dry rice from a shop in Louhajang. He said, "I have to feed my wife and children but where do I get the money?" Relief materials being distributed in other areas were



Partial view of an affected area in Gaondia — Star photo

Louhajang thana have been severely affected leaving the wooden houses and other structures totally damaged.

Besides the human losses, the farmers of the areas suffered huge losses of their IRRI crop about to be harvested in a month's time.

One of the witnesses of the storm, Dabiruddin Khan described to this correspondent how it started. "All of a sudden

found buried under huge piles of wood. The entire area was turned into a killing field.

Paise village, one of the most seriously affected areas, suffered losses in human as well as crop. Thirteen people were killed on the spot most of whom were blown away and hit by some sort of hard structure. About 200 people were critically injured, most of

lages found many injured patients who suffered head, spine and limb fractures left on the ground.

It is reported that on the same night of the incident four micro buses were hired to carry the seriously injured patients to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. One doctor was also brought in to treat the rest of the patients in the area. Most of the affected people

said to be very scarce. Many people returned without getting even anything, he added.

The affected people are facing another major problem — drinking water crisis. Most of the tubewells were uprooted so an acute crisis of drinking water exists. It is feared that diarrhoea and other similar diseases may spread due to this water crisis.



The picture shows how the tornado in Paise village crushed houses on its way. — Star photo

Minister opens BDR battalion in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Apr 12: Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Tuesday inaugurated the newly-created 40th battalion of Bangladesh Rifles here, reports BSS.

The creation of the new battalion is the first phase of materialisation of the proposed creation of one sector and three battalions in the southern belt of the country.

Speaking on the occasion the minister said the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) had been playing a commendable role in checking smuggling in the border areas, assisting in maintaining peaceful law and order situation, and in conducting elections peacefully. They played a glorious role in the war of liberation which the nation will never forget, he added.

The minister said with the passage of time the expansion of this force has become a necessity in line of what the new battalion was created.

The minister hoped, the 635 members of the battalion would be able to justify the creation through dispensing the best of services they are entrusted with.

Religious Minister, M Keramat Ali, Disaster Management and Relief Minister, Harun-al-Rashid, Chief of Air Force, Air-Vice-Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Director-General of Bangladesh Rifles Major General Azaj Ahmed Chowdhury, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs, Faizur Rahman Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

Later, the minister addressed two gatherings of BNP workers at Patuakhali circuit house and Kayakata Dak Bangla.

Training on soil resources concludes

MYMENSINGH, Apr 12: A four-day training course on the use of soil resources concluded at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recently, says BSS.

The training course was sponsored by Graduate Training Institute (GTI) and the Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI) of the BAU, a press release from BAU said.

A total of 26 teachers and agricultural scientists from the BAU Patuakhali Agricultural College, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agricultural Research and SRDI participated in the training course.

Dr M Idris, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of the BAU distributed certificates among the participants at a function on the concluding day.



KUSHTIA: Group Study Exchange Team of Rotary International from USA recently visited Diabetic Centre of Kushtia sponsored by RC of Kushtia West as Permanent Community Service Project. Visiting team along with staff and Rotarians are seen in the picture. — Star photo

Migratory birds destroy crops, eat fish, water plants

From K M Rezaul Haque

GAIBANDHA, Apr 12: Migratory birds in large flocks have been damaging crops on vast tract of char-land in riverine areas of Teesta and Brahmaputra basin under Shaghata, Gaibandha sadar, Fulchhat and Sunderganj thanas of Gaibandha district.

Every winter season thousands of migratory birds visit Bangladesh and other riverine territories in search of food

and shelter. They eat up crops and water plants at random during their stay here.

Every year during winter uncountable migratory birds like Arctic turn, Canadian duck, Globber, Bobo-link, Swallow-patril, Albuross, Pentail duck, Geese, Snipe, Crame migrate from their location of origin on account of biting cold and acute food shortage. All such birds generally migrate from far Siberia, Holland, Germany, Spain, Scandinavia to warmer places like this part of South Asia.

Farmers of char-lands leads a miserable life due to frequent occurrence of flood. So, they totally depend on winter crops like boro, China, Kawn, peanut etc.

Farmers experience some what torture by the presence of migratory birds. According to the farmers they fear all the time of bird attack on crop fields. The ducks and geese in large number attack the crop land and eat crops in huge quantity. It takes only an hours time to wind up crop on a bigha of land, said a farmer.

This happens just after evening or early in the morning. Farmers are to erect temporary sheds adjacent to the crop land with a view to protecting crops from any bird attack. Sometimes, they lay trap to catch the birds or spray pesticide, to threaten the birds. Still, every year huge crops are being damaged by the migratory birds.

On the other hand birds in large number thronged to shallow water of riverine areas in search of small fish, crabs, snails and water plants. During winter these birds swallow huge fish wealth and water plants. At the advent of spring the migratory birds in large flocks start returning.

Large-scale cutting of fruit bearing trees in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Apr 12: Fruit-bearing trees in all the 12 thanas of the greater Kushtia district are on the verge of extinction due to its large scale cutting, reports UNB.

The district was famous for different kind of fruits such as jack fruits, lichi, mango, palm, guava, emblic myrobalan (amloki) and pineapple. These fruits used to grow in plenty in the district but now-a-days these are hardly available in the markets.

The fruit-bearing trees are now being indiscriminately cut in large scale in the district as many poverty-stricken people are compelled to sell these trees to the traders to maintain their livelihood.

Most of these trees are being used as firewood in burning bricks in the brickfields in spite of government ban.

Due to gradual reduction of fruit-bearing trees an acute crisis of fruit has been prevailing in the district. Consequently people are deprived of different fruits which is a great source of nutrition. Moreover, ecological balance is affected due to this random deforestation.

Villagers gouge out eyes of alleged dacoit in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 12: Angry villagers gouged out the eyes of one Abul Kashem Gazi, 28, at Rukundi village under Mehendiganj thana Monday.

Abul Kashem, allegedly a dacoit, came to Rukundi village with his gang for robbery.

The villagers caught him but the others managed to escape.

The villagers later gouged out his eyes, police said. Kashem was admitted to the Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College hospital on a critical condition under police guard.

Abul Kashem, however, denied that he had gone to the village for robbery.

A case was filed with Mehendiganj thana in this connection.

Hospital staff not paid salary for last 3 months

DINAJPUR, Apr 12: The staff of the district Red Crescent Hospital are not getting their salary for the last three months due to shortage of fund, reports UNB.

Secretary of the Hospital Management Committee said, they need Tk 1.50 lakh per month to meet the salary of more than 40 staff members including doctors, nurses and for payment of telephone and electricity bills.

Of the total required money, Red Crescent Society (RCS) head office provides Tk 75,000 as grant and the rest amount is met from the income of the hospital, he said.

However, during the last three months no such grants was provided by the head office (RCS) causing untold sufferings to the staff, hospital sources said.