

Gunmen kill 2 in Khulna

KHULNA, Apr 17: Two young men were killed at a market in Dighubha thana of the district on Friday, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

According to police, a group of ten to twelve armed men attacked Shaheen and Lichu, both of them aged about 25, at a tea stall at Gazirhat bazar.

Police could not recover the body of Shaheen.

The body of Lichu has been sent to his village home at Barasat under Terokhoda thana after autopsy. Both the victims belonged to the Jubo League, as claimed by the Khulna district Awami League.

Seventeen, including govt official accused of corruption

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 17: District Anti Corruption Department has lodged four cases separately with Kushtia Police Station recently accusing a former Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Kushtia and at present a Senior Assistant Secretary of Ministry of Science and Technology, and 16 others on charge of corruption committed while giving permission to register exchange of property cases.

The main accused, the then Additional Deputy Commissioner, (Revenue) passed the order violating government instructions of securing genuineness certificate from Deputy Commissioner. Power of Attorneys were not registered and there were no description of properties in power of Attorney, it was alleged.

The cases were not treated as special ones while there was no opinion of learned government pleader on any of the cases.

Reign of terror looms over Khulna Division

KHULNA, Apr 17: At least 87 people were killed in ten districts of Khulna Division in last three months, police sources said, reports UNB.

A good number of activists and leaders of different political parties including Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Awami League and Jatiya Party (JP) were among of the casualty list.

The district wise break up of the casualty is: Jessore-19, Jhenidah-15, Chuadanga-9, Satkhira-8, Bagerhat-6, Khulna-6, Narail-4, Meherpur-3 and Mita-2.

On Saturday evening UP member of Azagora union Parishad under Terokhoda thana was killed by a gang of armed miscreants, who called him out of his residence and stabbed him to death in a nearby field. A case has been filed with Terokhoda police in this connection.

Also on Saturday, Batiaghata police arrested one dacoit and recovered four arms including three pipe guns and one gun, from Kuspha ghat area.

Typewriters stolen

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 17: A daring theft was committed in three government offices of Fenchuganj thana in the night following Thursday last.

The miscreants entered the thana agriculture office, education office and public health engineering office by breaking open the doors. They took away the typewriters from all these offices located at the thana parishad building at midnight. Separate cases had been registered with the Fenchuganj thana. But no action had yet been reported.

JUJA refutes JU press release

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY, Apr 17: Jahangirnagar University Journalist Association (JUJA) on Thursday alleged that the press release issued by the University authority on insecurity of female students at the campus was "fabricated", reports UNB.

The association in an emergency meeting held at its office condemned the university authorities for issuing a "fabricated" press release published in different dailies on April 10.

The meeting said a particular segment of the news is inconsistent with the fact and issued a statement to the authorities protesting it.

The issue on insecurity of females at the University was raised following an allegation that a student leader secured engagement with a female student at gun point.

Meanwhile, the next meeting of Disciplinary Committee of the University is scheduled on April 17. It earlier met on last Saturday but failed to reach to any decision on the issue.

BSF interferes in construction work of Feni river embankment

From Our Correspondent

RANGARH (Khagrachhari), Apr 17: The construction of Town Protection Embankment on the Feni river was suspended April 10, Sunday due to an interference from the Indian Border Security Force (BSF), official sources said.

The Water Development Board has started construction of the embankment to protect the Rangarh town from the erosion of the Feni river on a resolution of the joint River Commission early this month.

A contingent of armed BSF

came over the site without any prior notice and directed the labourers to stop working at 10 in the morning.

Later, the BSF handed over a letter to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in Rangarh to keep the construction work suspended, the contractor entrusted with the construction said.

When contacted, Major Idris, Commanding Officer of 37 Battalion of BDR station in Rangarh told The Daily Star that the formal reply to BSF's letter will be communicated

Monday to sort out the matter. If necessary, a flag meeting will be arranged between both the sides immediately for early solution, he added.

The BSF, already deployed on the other bank of the Feni river, has been guarding the construction works.

Interference on construction of embankment has become a regular practice of the BSF. Every year they do it violating the decision of the Joint River Commission, local sources said.

Construction of Radio Bangladesh centre in Bandarban uncertain

From Our Correspondent

BANDARBAN, Apr 17: The dilly-dallying attitude of the concerned authorities, the completion of the under-construction of Bandarban Radio Station left off for the last three years leading the radio listeners of the district in uncertainty.

Disturbance was also developed among the people of this district on the completion of this project, boundary wall of which was constructed at a cost of Taka one crore including acquisition of land measuring about 20 acres at Balaghata in the outskirts of Bandarban

town in 1990-91 by the Ministry of Information.

An amount of Taka 41,34,000.00 was paid as compensation against acquisition of land and the boundary wall was constructed with Taka 53,29,000.00 by early 1992. Since then the project was left for the last three years turning it into a barren land.

The Ministry of Information has only allocated the fund for acquisition of land and construction of boundary wall to establish a 10 kilowatt radio broadcasting station in Bandarban and no more schemes

were approved against it till to date, sources from the local Public Works Department said suspecting the uncertainty of its implementation.

Another source said, the projects on construction of radio stations in Barisal and Cox's Bazar were approved well after the work of Bandarban project started. The works on those projects are progressing fast and nearly completed but for Bandarban it's left in uncertainty.

The local people urged for early implementation of the project.

Smoke from vehicles posing threat to public health

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Apr 17: Old and wornout buses, trucks, passenger-carrying jeeps and auto-rickshaws plying on different routes in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban are emitting black smokes causing serious health hazards.

About 600 vehicles move to and from each district town every day. These small hill district towns are congested with large numbers of automobiles emitting black smokes. Despite government warning, the vehicle owners have not taken any precautionary measures to stop emission of smoke that cause high blood pressure, cancer and even heart and skin diseases. The school-going children are the worst sufferers, local physicians and social workers said.

Mechanical and automobile workshops in the three district headquarters are also polluting environment.

Reckless driving and overloading of buses, trucks, passenger-carrying jeeps locally known as 'chander-garhe' and auto-rickshaws on Rangamati-Chittagong, Rangamati-Khagrachhari, Rangamati-Kaptai, Kaptai-Chittagong, Khagrachhari-Rangarh, Dighinala-Chittagong and Bandarban-Chittagong routes continued to endanger the lives of passengers and pedestrians.

The drivers violating the traffic rules accommodate the passengers even on the rooftops of buses and chander-garhes and run the vehicles beyond speed limit," Suidipta Dewan, ex-member of parliament said claiming her personal observation. Overloaded trucks are seen carrying bamboos and timbers on Kaptai-Chittagong, Dighinala-Chittagong and Bandarban-Chittagong routes everyday before the nose of the law enforcing agencies, the ex-MP of Rangamati Dewan added.

Moreover, undue delay and overloading of goods from trucks in the busy Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban town areas are also causing frequent traffic jams. The shopkeepers on both sides of the roads raised objections several times but no action has yet been taken in this regard, the local people claimed.

Realisation of excess fare from the passengers is a regular phenomenon on these routes leading to altercation and scuffles between the passengers and conductors.

Smuggling out of illegally caught fish from Karnaphuli Lake, illicit timber from Rangamati reserved and forests furniture through passenger-carrying buses on all the routes in this region is also going on regularly causing a serious inconvenience to the travelling passengers.

Agri loan worth Tk one cr disbursed in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 17: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), and other commercial banks disbursed Taka about one crore as agricultural loan in the all seven thanas of the district during the first nine months of the current financial year, according to official sources.

The loan was distributed for production of different crops, raising poultry and dairy farms, purchasing agri machinery and for other agro-activities as well as for implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes.

The sources said BKB and other banks target of loan disbursement during the current financial year about Tk 2.5 crore in the district.

The BRDB has been implementing several long term programmes for poverty alleviation in the district under

this programmes for creating employment opportunities among the village women.

On the other hand, different NGOs, including ASA, BRAC, have distributed over Tk 50,000 in seven thanas of the district among the marginal landless farmers without any collateral security under its poverty, alleviation programmes.

BRAC, ASA, Shasjka and several other non-government organisations has launched massive poverty alleviation and social development programmes in the 12 thanas of greater Jamalpur district.

According to the sources, the loan was provided among the landless and marginal farmers through 6,517 groups with the objective of helping run their self-employment projects like small business, cattle and poultry farming and handicrafts.

Wife of police firing victim gets compensation

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 17: A cheque of Tk 50,000 was handed over to the victim of Kabir Hossain's wife by the Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Md Serajul Haque recently.

Md Kabir Hossain, a farmer of village Guzmanika under Melandah thana of the district was killed by police firing in a clash between police and farmers in thana headquarters while he was coming to receive urea fertiliser here on March 29.

Later, Md Akhter Hossain Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur announced Tk 50,000 for Kabir Hossain's family in a public gathering of the thana headquarters on the same day.

The minister later visited home of late Kabir Hossain and distribute the cheque to his wife.

It may be mentioned that Shafiq Ahmed, TNO of Melandah, is still absconding from the day of killing of Kabir Hossain.

Man supplying 'Technique' note books arrested

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 17: Moulvibazar Sadar thana police set a laudable example by arresting the salesman of a note book called 'Technique'.

According to the police, Kazi Sayduzzaman, of Chandina thana under Comilla district had been supplying a specially designed note books to the book stalls of Moulvibazar town, and in some other areas of the district. This type of note books are being used by a section of students for the purpose of unfair means in the examination halls. For easy handling in the examination halls by the students, these books are printed by computer in very small letter point. The book, having each page 6x4 inches in size contain many questions and answers. For its special design the note book named 'Karim Sir-er Parikkha Passer Technique' (Technique of passing the examination composed by Karim Sir) earned popularity among a section of students who want to pass examinations by unfair means. The said 'Technique' was published on different subjects of SSC and HSC.

However, police of Moulvibazar sadar thana acting on a secret information arrested the Technique (Note book) supplier Mofiz from a hotel in Moulvibazar town. Police also recovered 185 pieces of 'Technique' from his hotel room. A case was filed in this connection with police.

It is assumed by the police that more than 5 thousand pieces of the book have been distributed by Mofiz so far.

One killed, over 100 injured in road mishaps in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Apr 17: One person was killed and 45 others were injured in two separate road mishaps on Sunday. During the incident three buffaloes were also killed.

In first incident one person, identified as Abdur Rashid, 20, a cart driver and three buffaloes were killed when Dinajpur bound night coach dashed three buffalo carts from behind at Boalia on Rangpur-Bogra highway.

In another incident a Sundarganj, Gaibandha bound over crowded bus Bogra BA-8386 was turned turtle at a road side ditch at Panch Jummah in sadar thana. 45 persons were injured in the accident of them nine seriously injured persons were taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

UNB adds: At least 100 people were injured, 12 seriously, when a passenger bus plunged into a roadside ditch on Sunday at Chapadaha, three kilometres from the town.

Of the injured, 30 have been admitted to the Gaibandha Sadar Hospital. Others were given first aid.

Police said the overloaded Gaibandha bound bus plunged into a ditch on Sundarganj-Gaibandha under construction this Sunday morning.

10 shops, 5 food godowns gutted in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Apr 17: At least 10 shops and five food godowns were gutted in a devastating fire at Baparpatti market here this evening.

The fire reportedly originating from a short circuit, spread to the whole market damaging property worth about Taka one crore and injuring seven persons.

The Fire Brigade immediately rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after one and a half hours.

Ten lakh maunds of sugarcane wilting

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 17: About ten lakh maunds of sugarcane have been wilting in the fields under Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills at Dewanganj of Jamalpur district. As a result hundreds of sugarcane growers are incurring heavy financial losses during the current crushing season, according to official sources.

According to sources Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills, it was learnt that about 20 lakh maunds of sugarcane are still standing in the fields of the mills zone area. On the other hand three lakh maunds of sugarcane have totally dried up while rest of the seven lakh maunds have partially dried up in the fields under Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills zone. Three lakh maunds of sugarcane are now being used as fuel for cooking.

The early period of crushing seasons. The government relaxed the ban when the time for producing 'gur' already runs out.

Taking advantage of the miseries of sugarcane growers, purchasing centres are reportedly malpracticing to deprive the growers at fair price.

It is alleged that the man who is responsible for purchasing sugarcane at different purchasing centres under this mills bought about one lakh maund of sugarcane. Without 'purfi'.

Farmers said that the land on which the cane was still standing would remain follow this season as the time of ploughing the land for cultivation of jute and aus paddy has already ran out.

Under this situation many farmers are hoping to give up the sugarcane cultivation during the next season.

Meanwhile, every year the Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills is reportedly incurring losses due to corruption, theft and other malpractices.

The mill has been running under a holding company.

To fight cancer Cobalt therapy units soon for different hospitals

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 17: Cancer treatment facilities have more or less increased in our country in the past few years.

A national council for controlling cancer disease has already been established in the country with a view to increase awareness about cancer among the people and for diagnosis of the disease at early stage.

It is revealed that in some cancer related cases the patient lived a longer life by taking treatment at an early stage — according to a cancer specialist.

Beside, Bangladesh Cancer Society surveyed the need of importing medicines which are not usually available in our country or so costly that poor patients cannot afford them.

For cancer treatment, meanwhile, government has imported six cobalt teletherapy machines which will be set up in different medical college hospitals in the country soon.

Ten more cobalt teletherapy machines will be imported within the next financial year, concerned authority said.

Following the decision, a cobalt teletherapy unit is being set-up at the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, with an estimated cost of nearly 80 lakh taka.

Other delicate machines are being set up at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital.

According to sources, to set up a cobalt unit, a room with four feet thick walls cast with cement and steel needs to be constructed as precautionary measure against any leakage of radiation. A twelve inches thick lead proof lead gate will be fitted in the room.

Government also has decided to increase medical facilities including number of beds in the hospitals upto thana level to ensure proper medicare facilities to people in the remote areas of Barisal Division. Number of doctors, nurses and para medics will also be increased gradually to provide necessary health services for all by the year 2000, it was learnt from the local Civil Surgeon's office.

7,503 irrigation pumps out of order in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Apr 17: A total of 7,503 irrigation pumps in the district are lying out of order for want of servicing and spare parts. For this reason the equipment could not be used in this current IRRI-Boro farming season.

Out of total, unserviceable pumping sets 590 are deep tubewells, 5,275 shallow tubewells and remaining 638 are low lift pumps.

A source of BADC informed that a total of 988 tubewells were installed in the district, during this fiscal year, 928 irrigation pumps were commissioned. Of that 338 tube-wells were put under irrigation purposes and the rest are yet to be installed.

According to the source, out of total disordered tubewells 411 tubewells are lying out of order for want of adequate spare parts and timely maintenance, 33 for the disagreement among the members of different societies, 28 proved not profitable, 30 tube wells turned fully condemn.

five tubewells were washed away in river erosion, 30 tube wells could not lift water from underground level due to decreasing water level.

Besides, farmers purchased 18,099 shallow tubewells either from BADC or local dealers, of that 12,824 tube wells are in operation, remaining 5,275 tube wells went standstill for want of proper servicing and spare parts.

On the other hand, out of total 4,901 low lift pumps supplied by BADC and local dealers, 263 were installed during this crop season. Remaining pumps could not function on account of various problems like short supply of spare parts, poor maintenance, drying up of water source.

This year, extension department fixed a target of 67,543 hectares of land under IRRI-Boro cultivation programme during this crop season but only 62,000 hectares of land could be brought under cultivation till today.

1.5 lakh acres arable land in CHT remain uncultivated

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Apr 17: About 1.5 lakh acres of arable land remain uncultivated every year due to various reasons in Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

Official sources said about 2.5 lakh metric tons of grains worth about Taka four crore could be produced annually if those land were brought under cultivation schemes.

The lands remain fallow due to lack of agricultural inputs, irrigation and credit facilities, scarcity of draft animals, absence of agricultural and technical know-how compounded with prevailing insurgency.

About 1,70,000 metric tons of grains are produced annually in 25 thanas in three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, the sources added.

The production of grains in the fallow land could play a vital role in solving food deficiency of the country, said Parizat Kushum Chakma, Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council.

He urged the concerned authorities to take all possible measures to bring the fallow land under cultivation programmes without further delay.

An amount of Taka twenty crore could be earned annually if the area of barren grove land in Chittagong Hill Tract region were brought under horticulture scheme, said Alauddin Biswas, the Divisional Forest Officer of Kaptai Pulp Wood Plantation Division claiming his personal study.

Tornado destroys Jainab's ambition

LOUHAJANG (Munshinganj), Apr 17: Nurunnahar Akhter Jainab could not live to materialise her ambition of becoming a civil servant as the cruel nature cut short her life along with host of other when a tornado swept through her village Paisa in Louhajang thana on last Saturday, reports BSS.

An HSC examinee from the Louhajang College, the teenaged Jainab who passed the SSC examination in 1993 securing 691 marks used to console her school teacher father saying, "I will have a much improved result in the HSC examination to take a good subject in the honours." She said after having Masters with distinction I am sure to qualify in the Bangladesh Civil Service Examination to show the urban dwellers that a village girl can accomplish a difficult task if there is will to attain it.

Jainab's father, Rashid Master broke into tears while telling her daughter's determination to prevail over the odds in the struggle for survival in life. He said whenever I used to tell Jainab about her aim she used to console me by expressing her iron will to win in the 'struggle of life'.

When this reporter approached her mother to know exactly how the brilliant and beautiful Jainab met the tragic end of her life, Fatema Begum (Jainab's mother), who has already become half insane with grief, first gave a most painful and blank look with tears rolling down her eyes she narrated in choked voice how Jainab was killed in a bid to save the only little brother they had among their eight sisters in the family. Fatehah Begum said the little child was at Jainab's lap almost all the time during the killer storm.

Biman flight cancelled just before take off

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 17: Seventy passengers were disembarked from the aircraft as a Biman flight was cancelled just before take off, at the Sylhet Osmany Airport on Thursday.

The day's first flight-BG-402 carrying 70 passengers on board began its journey towards Dhaka at 11:40 AM. But, some technical faults were detected just before the craft was about to take off. Accordingly, all the passengers were disembarked and the flight was cancelled.

Later, technicians from Dhaka reached Sylhet and began their works. But the plane is yet to be repaired, said Biman sources.

Mother, daughter hang themselves using same rope

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 17: Mother and daughter committed suicide to remove poverty from their family for ever in village Tikari in sadar thana recently.

Local people said, the family of Moslemuddin was in acute poverty. At the dead of the night Monwara Begum, 35, called her daughter Kazal, 12 outside their thatched house and hanged themselves in a mango tree using the same rope. Later their bodies were recovered by local people.

An unnatural death (UD) case was lodged with Jhenidah police and the bodies were sent to morgue.

TK 2.5 lakh looted from passengers at rly station

NARSINGDI, Apr 17: A gang of robbers swooped on the passengers at the platform of the Narsingdi railway station in the early hours of Sunday and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 2.5 lakh, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the passengers who got down from the Noakhali Express at 4:15 am were waiting for sunrise to go the nearby Baburhat bazar. But suddenly the armed dacoits surrounded them. They beat them mercilessly and decamped with the booty. Shubhas Saha, Bashudev Saha and Mongol Mia received serious injuries.

Before leaving the station, the robbers fired three blank shots and exploded a number of crackers to create panic in the area.

Later, people of the Baniachal area of the town caught one of the robbers. They also recovered Tk 10,000 and some clothes from the alleged dacoit named Kukil, and handed him over to the Sadar thana police.

A case has been filed with the railway police.



An over loaded mini bus running on a feeder road in Daragram of Manikganj district. Quite a few transports have started public bus services on the route from Manikganj town to Daragram, an important business centre of the area. Plying of such over loaded vehicles can damage roads. The picture on the right shows signs of damages on the same road. The feeder roads are being constructed sponsored by foreign and government aid mainly to improve rural road network system.