

### Car-truck head-on collision leaves three dead

MAGURA, Apr 22: Three people were killed when a Jessore-bound private car from Dhaka and a truck collided head-on at Kushandi of sadar thana on Magura-Kamarkhal road Thursday morning, reports UNB.

Police said owner of the car Fazul Haque, 30, of Noapara and driver Babul Miah, 32, of Sankarpasha in Jessore district died on the spot.

A rickshaw van driver, Chand Ali, 35, of Kushandi, was hit by the truck while he was crossing the road. He also died instantaneously.

The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The driver of the truck and his helper managed to flee. A case was filed with the sadar thana.

### Erosion of Meghna taking serious turn

CHANDPUR, Apr 22: At least six families have been rendered homeless by the devastating erosion of the river Meghna that has taken serious turn since Monday night at southern area of Chandpur Railway station, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, a vast arable land has already been devoured by the mighty river and many families who are under threat of erosion have been passing their days in anxiety.

Local people fear that if the erosion could not be stopped immediately the century's old railway station and its adjoining areas will be devastated as well.

### Shympur Sugar Mills exceeds production target

RANGPUR, Apr 22: The Shympur Sugar Mills has exceeded its production target by over one hundred metric tons during the current season, reports BSS.

The mill had a target to produce 11,658 tonnes of sugar by crushing 1,34,000 tonnes of sugarcane during this season. But the mills has succeeded in producing 11,759 tonnes of sugar so far by crushing 1,37,385 tonnes of sugarcane in 155 working days.

### Chicken pox claims two in Netrakona

NETROKONA, Apr 22: Chicken pox that broke out in an alarming proportion, in rural areas of the district claimed two lives in Modan thana in the last two weeks, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Kuhlila, 27, a woman day labourer of CARE from village Rudasree and another Arfat Ali, 60 from Fatehpur under Modan thana. At least 100 people have been attacked by the disease.

The hot spell sweeping over the country is spreading the disease from one place to another, said a physician.

However, symptoms of this disease are that the patient at early stage feels pain, headache and fever and finally the total body becomes red and blister break out throughout the body. The patients remain bed-ridden for 15-20 days.

Local people appealed to the authorities to take necessary steps to combat the spread of the disease.

### Teacher held on charge of faking registration

JHENIDAH, Apr 22: A school teacher was arrested recently for his alleged involvement in faking registration of some SSC candidates, reports UNB.

He was identified as Saded Ali, Assistant Teacher of Madhupur High School, Headmaster of the school Shahab Uddin went into hiding following a warrant of arrest in connection with the fraud.

Guardians of two SSC candidates, who got enlisted to be candidates for the SSC Examination filed two cases against the teachers for taking money from 368 students, most of whom either students of class IX or X, on pledge of managing admit cards for the exam. They allegedly took Tk 3,000 to 4,000 from each of the students.

Of them, 266 students failed to obtain admit card from the Jessore Board because the Board found these candidates ineligible for the examination.

The disappointed students on Tuesday gheraoed the residences of the headmaster and the assistant teacher in Madhupur. They also demonstrated in front of DC office here Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, a three-member enquiry committee has been formed to investigate the allegation.

## With alarming rise in population Size of forest resources, arable land declining fast in CHT

RANGAMATI, Apr 22: Economic problems in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region have been deepening over the last few years and the people both tribals and non-tribals are facing an uncertain future, according to sources from the Local Government Council of Rangamati Hill district.

Population boom, depletion of forest resources and loss of cultivable land as well as fertility have been identified as the main causes behind the deepening crisis in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Kha-

grachhari and Bandarban.

A report said population in the hill tracts region has increased from two lakh in the beginning of this century to about twelve lakh recently.

About one lakh people had been displaced by the Kaptai Hydro Electric Project in 1960 submerging dense forest and reducing cultivable plain land.

Rangamati Local Government Council sources said only one lakh four thousand three hundred five acres of land were at present available for cultivation which is still the

right proportion but may not be big enough for the increasing population in future.

A Horticulture Development Board was established guided by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board in the hill tracts region with a view to encouraging first production. But the projects taken by the Horticulture Development Board did not succeed for various reasons.

Depletion of forest resources, particularly bamboo plantations, has allowed the top soil to be washed away by rain water drastically reducing fertility. Local people do not know how to use bio-fertiliser properly, which also caused reduction in food production.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts region has no significant industry except Karnaphuli Paper Mills and a Rayon Mills managed by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation.

Many people, who lived on extraction and logging of trees have become destitutes after the government imposed restrictions in 1991 upon cutting trees and bamboos.

The long and short term and effective development plans should be undertaken urgently to avoid famine, communal disharmony and social unrest, said Gautam Dewan, a tribal leader.

pensive food like, fish or meat.

The korals are being sold in bazars both of urban and remote areas of Rangamati, Kha-grachhari and Bandarban districts at taka three per bundle of about thirty sticks, the sources added.

Although the buyers are from different clans the sellers are usually the tribal men and women.

The local leaders and the environmentalists alleged that due to extensive use in the food, price of bamboo saplings often shot up

### Bamboo shoots, second food of tribal people

RANGAMATI, Apr 22: Tribal people in the hill tracts region have been eating bamboo shoots as a part of their daily food causing depletion in the bamboo production and short supply in the paper mills and other users in the country.

Sources said a total of one lakh bamboo shoots worth about taka ten lakh are consumed daily by the people living in Chittagong Hill Tracts region, especially the tribals.

The shoots locally known as 'Banish Korai' took the second place of their diet because most tribals can not afford ex-

pensive food like, fish or meat.

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### 8 SSC candidates unable to take examination

GAIBANDHA, Apr 22: Eight students of Boonerpara Girls' High School could not sit for SSC examination which began in the country Thursday as their admit cards did not reach them in time, reports UNB.

The students unable to appear in the examinations rushed to the TNO office and filed a complaint against the Headmaster who they alleged is responsible for the mismanagement.

The incident happened due to delay in the Headmaster in fulfilling the requirement of the Education Board, they said.

They also alleged that the Headmaster had forfeited the amount paid to the school as fees for filling up the registration forms.

The Headmaster remain absconding since the mischief has been known to the locality.

Another UNB report from Jamalpur adds: A group of students failing to appear at the SSC Examination halted two trains for about three hours, ransacked their school office and residences of two teachers in Islampur thana Thursday.

Some 154 students of Purarchar Abdus Sattar High School did not get their admit cards due to the negligence of the Headmaster of the school, the protesters alleged.

Witnesses said the agitating students stopped the trains at Islampur railway station for three hours from 10 in the morning.

### Shanti Bahini activist surrenders

From Our Correspondent

KAPTAI (Rangamati), April 22: Ananta Bikash Tanchangya, a self-styled Lieutenant of the Shanti Bahini, autonomy seeking insurgents in Chittagong Hill Tracts, gave himself up to the local army base on April 6.

According to a delayed official report, Ananta, who was responsible for extortion of tolls from Gabachhari, Raingkhong, Borkal, Gandachhari of Raingkhong valley in Rangamati district, surrenders directly to 65 Infantry Brigade at Kaptai on April 6 being frustrated with the aimless policy of the Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity, the umbrella organization of Shanti Bahini. The surrendered insurgent expressed his determination to work for his tribe joining the main stream of the country, officials said.

### Eight sewing machines looted from project centre in M'bar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 22: A dacoity was committed at the Rehabilitation Project Centre of the Health Education and Economic Development (HEED), a NGO in Kamalgonj thana recently.

According to the police, a gang of armed dacoits numbering 8 to 10 broke open the door at dead of night in the centre, tied up the night guard and decamped with eight sewing machines and other valuable tools.

A case was registered with Kamalgonj police in this connection. Police visited the spot and arrested two persons on suspicion with involvement in the dacoity.

### Following fire incident; Shop owners get token relief

From Our Correspondent

LAMA (Bandarban), Apr 22: Cash and goods were distributed on Apr 8 among the affected shop-owners of Lama Bazar, where a devastating fire broke out on March 22 gutting 128 shops.

Originating from a over of a restaurant, the fire gutted 128 shops causing loss of about Taka fifty lakh, Fire Service sources said.

While distributing the token relief at the rate of Taka five hundred and twenty kilogram of rice per trader, Shaching Prue Zerry, Chairman of the Local Government Council of Bandarban Hill District assured the shop-owners of immediate necessary rehabilitation towards running their business.

## Diarrhoea claims 50 lives in 21 days

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Apr 22: Diarrhoea has so far claimed at least 50 lives in four thanas of the district during the current month, reports UNB.

Civil Surgeon of the district confirmed that 16 people have died and 3046 people have been affected by the disease during the last two months.

According to local people, over 6,000 people in different areas of the district have so far been affected. The worst affected thanas are sadar and Begumganj. In four unions of sadar thana — Char Bata, Char Jabbar, Char Wapda and Char Amanullah, 3,000 people were affected.

In Begumganj thana, Aunishapara, Sonapur, Gopalpur and Nateswar unions are the worst affected where at least 1500 people have so far been attacked by the disease.

Besides, diarrhoea also broke out in several unions of Hatia and Companyganj thanas where about 500 people were affected.

Another 1000 people were attacked by the disease in the Municipal area of the district.

Doctors said high temperature coupled with scarcity of drinking water have caused the outbreak of the disease.

At least 1000 patients received treatment at Noakhali General Hospital during the

period. The Hospital cannot cope with the increasing number of patients.

The Civil Surgeon said nine medical teams have been working in the affected areas to combat the spread of the disease.

### Sirajganj Varsity College closed

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 22: Sirajganj University College was closed sine die following a clash between two groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) over nominations of Chhatra Sangsad elections, leaving seven people injured, reports UNB.

College authorities took the decision in an emergency meeting.

Police said, the clash erupted between supporters of group leader Rashedul Hasan Rangan and Biswajit Rai when the JCD announced the nominations for VP and other posts to contest the election on the campus this morning.

The supporters blasted at least seven cocktails during the clash. Suriya, a 3rd year honours student of the college, was critically injured and is being treated at the Community Hospital in the town.

The other injured were released after first aid.

## Tk 17.8 cr road uplift work in progress in Noakhali

From Our Correspondent

NOAKHALI, Apr 22: The construction work of 16 road at a cost of Tk 17.80 crore in Noakhali district is in progress.

Executive Engineer of Noakhali Road and Highway Division, Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star recently that the projects will be completed during the current fiscal year.

He informed that nearly 120 km of roads in seven routes and 27 bridges and culverts are being constructed at a cost of Tk 11.40 crore under ADP project.

He said that another 120 kms long road nine bridges and culverts at a cost Tk 6.40 crore one being built under NICAR project.

The executive engineer also informed that progress of ADP projects are 75 per cent and NICAR projects are 70 per cent. He added that implementation maintenance and rehabilitation works of some roads at a cost of about Tk one crore, is also under progress.

## Officer-In-Charge of food godown allegedly sold grains in Pabna

PABNA, Apr 22: Grain stock in sadar thana godown sharply reduced as its Officer In-Charge has allegedly sold a huge quantity of rice and wheat in the black market, says UNB.

Local people alleged that the Officer In-Charge, Sirajul Karim sold 25 mt of wheat and 50 mt of rice in the black market. A huge quantity of other grains worth about Tk 15 lakh has also been sold by the Officer.

When the dealer come to collect their allotted grains they are often harassed by the officer, they further alleged.

The authorities concerned have not yet taken any action against the officer despite written complaint.

## Smuggled goods worth Tk 4 crore seized by BDR

SATKHIRA, Apr 22: The Bangladesh Rifle seized smuggled Indian goods worth Tk four crore from different border areas in three thanas during the last three months, official sources said here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The seized goods included salt, sugar, crockeries cosmetic items, spare parts of bicycle, cotton cloth, toothpaste, phenisidyl and some types of medicine.

Some 100 people were also arrested for their involvement in smuggling and 400 cases were lodged with Sadar, Debaghata and Kolaroa police stations.

## Valuables worth Tk 60,000 robbed

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 22: Valuables worth about Taka 60 thousand were looted in a robbery incident at a house in Rajnagar thana recently.

According to reports, the armed dacoits numbering 10 to 12 broke open the door and entered the house of Khursid Miah of Panchgaon village of Rajnagar thana at dead of night and tied up the inmates.

They took away cash Taka ten thousand, three tolas of gold ornament, radio set, cassette, clothes and others.

A case in this connection had been lodged with Rajnagar thana.



BRAHMANBARIA: The Bangladesh Rifles men from the 23 battalion recently launched anti-smuggling drives in border Titas river near Gukorna port and seized Indian goods worth Tk two lakh. — Star photo

## 17 people face corruption charges in Khagrachhari

From Our Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 22: District Anti Corruption Bureau has lodged seven cases with Khagrachhari police-station separately accusing seventeen persons including government officials and public leaders allegedly for misappropriating of cash and kind worth Taka three lakh sixty two thousand after a thorough and lengthy investigation recently.

While elaborating charges brought against the accused, District Anti-Corruption Officer of Khagrachhari District Anti-Corruption Bureau, Rustam Ali Chowdhury told The Daily Star that ATM Ahmed Chowdhury, the then district co-ordinator officer now serving in Cox's Bazar has misappropriated government revenue amounting to taka one lakh one thousand which was supposed to be deposited in the government treasury.

In another case instead of carrying out renovation work on the road from Jautho Khamar to Stantopara, the union parishad member of Perachhara, Sunil Bikash Roaza, Guram Chakma and Khokan Lal Roaza misappropriated three metric tons of rice worth about Taka thirty thousand.

Three metric tons of rice which was released for re-ex-

amination of Gobanchhara Canal and erection of embankment

on it was misappropriated by the ex-chairman of Perachhara union parishad, Khokan Lal Roaza in connivance with three other persons.

Shafiqul Islam of village Shamshtwabid in kotowali police-station under Luxmipur district was chargesheeted for defalcating Taka one lakh from Khagrachhari branch of Agrani Bank opening a forged account.

Along with three others, Sunil Bikash, a member of Perachhara union parishad were chargesheeted for misappropriating four metric tons of rice; which was allotted for the renovation work of road from Bangalkatipara to Bholanathpara.

In the seventh case, Mafizur Rahman, a Ward Commissioner of Khagrachhari pourasava allegedly misappropriated Taka twenty one thousand against renovation work of Muslimpara road.

Charges brought against all the seventeen accused were framed as per sub-section 5(2) of section II of the Corruption Prevention Act of 1947. Rustam Ali Chowdhury said. He was assisted by Inspector, Golam Maula Siddiqui and Sub-inspector, Shafiqur Rahman of the same bureau in conducting investigation. Chowdhury added.

## 76 uplift projects in progress in Khulna

KHULNA, Apr 22: Government has taken up a programme to implement 76 uplift schemes under Food for Works Programme in the district, reports UNB.



SHLJET: A colourful rally was brought out in the town welcoming the Bengali new year. — Star photo

### ERRATA

In this page on April 13, '95 we published a report under the title 'Major rural development works in progress in Noakhali'.

In the seventh paragraph of the report it read, 'There was no stock of wheat in the Government Local Supply Depot (LSD)'. It should have read, 'there was no LSD found in the project area. We regret the error.'



GAIBANDHA: Gano Unnayan Pambar Kalyan Kendra in the district recently organised a 'refreshers' course for teachers engaged in basic education. The course was inaugurated by Shafar-raj Hossain, Deputy Commissioner of the district. — Star photo

### Recent spot survey shows

## Dowry main cause of divorce cases

NATORE, Apr 22: Thousands of divorce cases have been registered in different courts of the district during the last five years, court sources said, reports UNB.

Non-payment of dowry has been the main reason of the divorce. Other reasons are early marriage, love marriage, non-registration of marriage and immoral activities. Allegations say many of the housewives were tortured by their husbands for non payment of dowry.

According to a spot survey made by the UNB correspondent in some rural areas of the district, many dowry victims cannot take any legal action against their husbands due to non-registration of their marriages.

It has been revealed that defying the government restriction, many people take more than one wife in the remote areas without the permission of the first wife.

Despite the ban on marriage below 18 years of age, the marriage registrars, in many cases, encourage such marriage to earn extra money. It was reported especially in re-

mote villages.

It is also reported that there are many unregistered marriage registrars especially in rural areas who are engaged in various unlawful activities.

There are 51 licensed marriage registrars in 51 unions of the district. As per government rules none above 65 years old is entitled to conduct marriages. But, again, this rule is being violated.

There are certain legal safeguards for a woman in the marriage deed which cannot be ensured due to the non-registration of marriages.

Moreover, divorce has become a very common feature in the rural areas in the absence of registration where the divorcees are forced to live in sub-human condition. Even in some cases, some of them are seen engaged in immoral activities to maintain their livelihood.

High registration fee is said to be one of the main causes on non-registration of a marriage in the rural areas. It is also alleged that many marriage registrars in rural areas charge higher registration fees than the rate fixed by the government.



NOAKHALI: A reception was accorded to the meritorious students who secured places the 1994 Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and Secondary School Certificate examination under Comilla Education Board from Noakhali district, on April 16 at Noakhali Zilla High School campus. Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism was present as chief guest. The photo shows the students with chief guest and other high officials of the district. — Star photo