

## Attack on JP office protested

GAIBANDHA, Apr 7: A protest procession and meeting of Zilla Jatiya Party was held Monday against a bomb attack at Jatiya Party office.

A victory procession of BNP while passing through Jatiya Party office that night a bomb exploded inside the JP office in which three JP activists, Shaiful, Farhad and Rafiqul sustained severe injuries. Left democratic front held a meeting Monday at local Shaheed Miner demanding restoration of law and order.

## Gun, stolen goods recovered

BRAHMABARIA, Apr 7: Police recovered a one-barrel rifle from an abandoned house at Kaziur in the poura area, reports UNB.

On a tip, police raided the Kaziur area and recovered the gun, last week.

Meanwhile, police recovered some stolen goods from Mourali area in the town. The goods were stolen from the house of a school teacher.

## 7,000 cubic feet of timber seized at Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Apr 7: Rangamati Forest Division seized 7,000 cubic feet of teak and 'garal' timber worth about Tk 50 lakh during the last six months till March 30, reports UNB.

According to a forest official, the forest rangers seized the timber with the help of local people from different parts of reserved forest.

Illegal felling of trees and unauthorised passing of wood from the deep forest have been causing serious deforestation in the area for a long period, forest officials said.

However, the Forest Division sold in auction the seized timber at about Tk 16 lakh during the period.

## Khulna police commissioner blamed for partisan role

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 7: BNP and JCD leaders at a rally here this afternoon strongly criticised the Police Commissioner and the Police Super of Khulna for their alleged partisan role in dealing with political clashes after the formation of the caretaker government.

Former MP Nargis Ali alleged that the police commissioner and the police super were harbouring the armed terrorists of a political party while harassing BNP and JCD activists. She said the two police officers were acting as per advice of local Awami league leaders.

Meanwhile, the liaison committee in a press statement alleged that JCD armed terrorists wanted in connection with several murder cases were still moving freely.

A top police official denied the charges.

## Benapole Port badly needs a bus terminal

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, April 7: Passengers' trouble, traffic-jam road accidents, import and export problems are becoming more acute at Benapole Port following absence of bus terminal since long.

According to reports, hundreds of buses, mini-buses, private cars, coasters, tempes and night coaches operate commercial services to and from here every day. They are seen to park on the main road that runs to other side of the border from Jessore. Lack of terminal in this border area, has led to this awkward situation causing difficulty to all concerned, the report said.

Report also said that a traffic unit has been posted there to control the traffic movement recently. Instead they are otherwise busy in some other business it is alleged. As such, there has been no improvement in the situation, the report said.

According to another source, the entire Benapole Bazar, has virtually turned into bus terminal. Giving details, the source said that local bus stand has been set up in front of Sonali Bank, mini bus stand in the centre of the bazar, night coaches in front of the BDR camp and the truck stand spreading to check post from C&F Agents Association office, Benapole Port area, in fact, looks like a big bus/truck terminal to any outsiders.

This sort of parking of vehicles in disorderly manner on the main road, is creating problems for easy movement of any pedestrians not to speak of vans or rickshaws, trucks carrying imported or exported cargo, and passport holders coming or going to India, are also becoming victims of circumstances.

It is reported that such trucks remain stranded for days together to off load goods adversely affecting the position of perishable goods in particular.

# Fund crisis stalls Chalan Beel project again

From MA Ali Himu

NATORE, Apr 7: The work on Chalan Beel project is likely to remain incomplete for want of fund even this year too, it is learnt.

The work on the 44 crore taka project was started in 1976 and it was stopped in 1984 for financial crisis.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) started the project in this region with a view to control flood and extraction of water. The Chalan Beel project areas are divided into 4 polders.

The polders included the beel areas of Natore, Pabna, Bogra, Naogaon and Rajshahi districts.

Primarily World Food Programme (WFP) and International Development Agency (IDA) financed the project.

The project includes construction of 200km long flood control embankment, digging of 300 km long canal, building of 24 regulators, 250 sluice gates, 55 bridges and 132 culverts.

One hundred ninety seven km of flood control embankment, 104 km of canal, 12 regulators, 93 sluice gates and three bridges were completed till 1984, a BWDB source informed.

The work on the project was stopped following a dispute over construction of a regulator at the mouth of the river Baral near Charghat thana of Rajshahi, the BWDB sources alleged.

At the beginning of the 1993-94 financial year, the Board expected to start the incomplete works of the project

in 1994 and 1995. But the effort failed and new efforts were taken to start the project during this year. But the works are unlikely to start during the current year as well for fund crisis.

At least 30 thousand farmers of the beel areas under the scheme have been suffering much for keeping the project incomplete.

The completion of the project could save food grains on 2.14 lakh acres of land under the project area from flood and could help produce an additional amount of food grains worth about Taka 10 crore.

The World Bank, however, assured rehabilitation of the project with the financial assistance of some donor agencies. The implementation of

the rehabilitation programme needs about Taka 10 crore but no donor agency has yet agreed to finance the project.

The rehabilitation work includes construction of 426 km long embankment, digging of 16 regulators, 57 sluice gates, 171 km long road, four bridges and 47 culverts, it is learnt.

The BWDB, in this situation, has taken up a decision to start the rehabilitation programme with the surplus fund of the project, FCD. But the Board will not be able to complete the work, it is learnt.

Farmers of the project areas have urged the donor agencies and the government to assist the project immediately in the greater interest of the country.

## Loan money worth Tk 61 cr remain outstanding

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 7: A total amount of Taka 61 crore 6 lakh 54 thousand loan money has been lying outstanding with different banks in the 8 thanas of the district of Habiganj. Authorities have registered a total of 1853 certificate cases to realise an amount of Taka 3 crore 77 lakh 62,000.

Of this, 245 certificate cases has been started for a total claim of Taka one crore 4 lakh 10 thousand in Habiganj sadar thana, 280 cases for a total claim of Taka 42 lakh 54 thousand in Madhabpur, 304 cases for a total of Taka 59 lakh 89 thousand in Ajmiriganj, 461 cases for realising Taka one crore one lakh 7 thousand in Baniachang and 355 cases for Taka 17 lakh 18 thousand in Bahubul thana. Due to lodging of these cases, a legal measure are being taken against the poor farmers. Many farmers are now compelled to sell out their tilling bullocks even some of them have sold their homesteads to pay arrear loan amounts, in the remote areas of the district.

Besides, due to the abnormal rise in the prices of agricultural inputs like fertilizer, irrigation equipment and natural calamities, the number of poor and marginal farmers had been on increase for the last few years in different thanas of the district.

## Mysterious murders

From Our Correspondent

JHENAI DAH, Apr 7: Dead-bodies of two brothers were recovered from Arupur stand in the town this morning (Saturday).

According to reports, two brothers, Bangla, 9, and Sanakar, 7, of village Nischintapur in Kaliganj union of the district were missing from their house at about 4 pm yesterday. Today police recovered the bodies. The bodies were sent to the Jhenaidah Sadar hospital morgue.

Police sources said both the children might have been killed due to village enmity. It was reported that Jogendra Nath Das, the father of the children, was also abducted about two years back and he was yet to be rescued police sources said.

## Oldman stabbed to death

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 7: An old man was stabbed to death by a young man at village Shaleswar under Biswanath thana here Friday.

Abdus Sattar, 70, died on the spot when the youth of his neighbouring house hit him with a dagger at a paddy field.

The two locked into an altercation, when the youth went to the field of Sattar to bring back his duck. At one stage, the youth stabbed him. After the incident, the youth has gone into hiding. The body was sent to hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed

## A fax machine so badly needed

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Apr 7: Traders general people and journalists can not get fax facilities due to absence of fax machine at PCC or Post Office in Magura town, it was learnt.

According to the reports, there is no fax machine at Public Call Office or District Post Office. As a result traders, journalists and general people face problem to send emergency news from Magura. A large number of people in the district stay out of the district. Their relatives have to send emergency news. They can not send news due to lack of fax machine in Magura town.

The journalists of the Bengali and English dailies face a lot of problems to send news too. Due to lack of fax machine they have to send news by telephone. It is not easy to get telephone line from here.



Outgoing president of the Supreme Court Bar Association Justice TH Khan addressing the annual general meeting of the association at SC Bar auditorium yesterday. —Star photo

## 9 arrested, arms recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested nine persons and recovered illegal arms in separate drives in the city during last two days.

Sutrapur police in a special drive at the Bani Bhaban of Jagannath University at Iswar Das Lane in the older part of the city recovered a pipe-gun, a toy revolver, two bombs and raw materials for making bombs.

Six persons were arrested during the raid at around 5:30 am yesterday. Two cases were filed with Sutrapur thana.

Meanwhile, the detective branch of police recovered 38 bullets in another raid at Omar Ali Lane in Golshan thana Saturday night, police said.

Three persons identified as Akter Hossain, 26, Ismail, 23, and Abdul Hakim, 22, were picked up from the spot. A case has been filed with Gulshan thana.

## M A Haq's death condoled

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed his profound shock at the sad demise of former minister M A Haq, report agencies.

In a condolence message the President said that Haq was a devoted social worker and contributed immensely to mass literacy programme.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government, Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former minister M A Haq, reports UNB.

In a condolence message, he appreciated the role of late Haq in various social activities and recalled his contributions in the fields of country's social and political arena.

Habibur Rahman prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed shock at the death of former minister MA Haq.

In a message, she also expressed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Sylhet Division

Dev Council

The leaders of Sylhet Division Development Council yesterday expressed their deep condolence at the death of former minister MA Haq.

Qul tomorrow

Quilkhani of former minister MA Haq will be held tomorrow after Asar prayers at his residence, Sylhet House, 12 Avoy Das Lane, Tikatuli in the city, reports BSS.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qul.

## Asfia wins Rotary poster contest

Asfia Mahin, a student of class V of Willes Little Flower School won the first prize of the poster competition, arranged by Rotary Club of Dilkusha, says a press release.

Narissa Ahmed, Ashua Musa and Fayza Fatheen Haider, all from the Scholastica School, got the second, third and fourth position prizes respectively.

In celebration of the Rotary International's Programme Commitment to Family and Community, — Rotary Club of Dilkusha had recently held the competition on the subject 'How to Make the World a Better Place to Live in.'

## World Health Day observed

## Low-cost housing projects for slum-dwellers stressed

Adviser of Health and Family Welfare Major General (retd) Abdur Rahman Khan yesterday laid emphasis on proper planning, and implementation, of the city for promotion of public health in the urban areas, reports BSS.

Addressing a function organised to mark the World Health Day at the College of Surgeons in the city, he said unplanned urbanisation and over crowding in cities are causing health hazards in the country's urban areas.

Gen Khan suggested development of low-cost housing projects for the slum dwellers who constitute a major part of city population. He observed that the atmosphere of the slums are causing severe health hazards.

## SB Chy condoles death of US commerce secy

Adviser for the Ministries of Industries, Commerce, Jute and Textiles Shegufta Bakht Chaudhuri yesterday expressed his deep shock at the sad demise of US Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown in an air crash along with other US officials and businessmen in Croatia on April 4, reports BSS.

In a condolence message, SB Chaudhuri said, 'at his premature death, US has lost one of her great sons.'

## Call to curb use of black money in polls

General secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Mujahidul Islam Selim yesterday said that free and impartial election was not possible without eliminating 'money-game', muscle power and religious provocation, reports BSS.

Addressing a party rally in the city yesterday afternoon Selim called upon the caretaker government to promulgate ordinance for curbing all kinds of factors which might push illegal influence in holding free and fair polls.

Held in front of the CPB office at Purana Paltan the rally was presided over by party Mohanagari chief Moshed Ali while central leaders Nazmul Ahsan Mizan, Mahub Alam, Ruhin Hossain Prince and Kafi Ratan spoke on the occasion.

Mujahidul Islam Selim said despite establishment of caretaker government at the cost

of valuable lives of many people and as a result of long movement of the people there is yet to take measures by the non-party government to declare war criminals and bank-loan defaulters as not eligible for taking part in the polls.

The CPB leader called upon the people to remain alert so that the future parliament might not turn into a 'club of millionaires'. He stressed the need for sending true representatives of working masses in the parliament to carry forward the struggle for establishing social justice and exploitation-free society.

The meeting was followed by a procession which paraded the main city streets. The processionists carried 'red-flags' and chanted slogans in favour of socialism and fair-polls.

## Weather

## Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division in the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country.

Slight rise in day temperature is likely throughout the country.

Today's highest temperature 38.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and Ishurdi and the lowest 17.7 degrees at Teknaf.

Meantime, Sylhet had 7 mm rain in the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

The Sun sets today at 6:18 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	37.0	24.9	72	35
Chittagong	32.6	21.3	70	77
Rajshahi	38.5	22.4	68	41
Khulna	37.0	23.4	71	53
Barisal	35.6	24.2	88	64
Sylhet	32.0	20.8	83	70

## Water stagnation in Jakiganj haors Standing crops on 30,000 acres inundated

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 7: Standing paddy crops on about 30,000 acres of land in the haors in Jakiganj thana have gone under water due to water stagnation in the absence of any outlet of waters. Excessive rains for the last two days caused the situation in the low-lying areas.

The huge croplands in the Balai haor, Mailat haor and others in the thana have been inundated throwing thousands of farmers into great worries. The farmers have become totally disappointed in the prevailing situation.

It may be stated here that, the water stagnation in the said croplands along the haors in the thana had been caused due to the blocking up of the entry points of the canals which originated from the rivers Surma and Kushiyaara, pass through the north and south sides of the Jakiganj thana years back. The situation went serious during the last few years due to the siltation of almost all the canals. The canals were blocked through the construction of a number of embankments, constructed without any long-term plan, said a number of leaders of the area. The farmers as well as the people of the thana have been demanding for cutting the entrapments of the embankments.

bankments with a view to facilitate the water flow from the canals especially during the monsoon every year. But the concerned authorities took no action in this regard causing much inconvenience for the farmers in general almost every year.

In July 1993 several thousand farmers went to the entry-point of the Telikhal embankment to cut the same. But, a contingent from the nearby border out post of BDR swooped on them and as many as five persons were shot dead. Later, the government constituted a one-member enquiry commission with a District Judge for a Judicial enquiry into the incident. The commission headed by the District Judge of Kishoreganj Md Anwarul Haque submitted its report to the Government with some specific suggestions. But the report is yet to be published. No action in the light of the report has also been taken yet.

It is learnt from reliable sources that, the commission suggested for opening the entry points of all the canals in Jakiganj thana with a view to facilitating the huge croplands for cultivation as well as to save the crops from early flood and water stagnation which occur almost every year. Due to the

crop damage every year, thousands of farmers in the thana have been facing a great loss. A good number of farmers are becoming being hardhit economically. Many are compelled to sell their croplands, even many of them sold out their homesteads.

In the prevailing situation, the number of landless farmers are on rise. A good number of farmers had also been engaged with smuggling to earn their livelihood in this bordering thana.

While talking to this correspondent, the secretary of Jakiganj Krishak Sangram Parishad Faizur Rahman Khoshru said, 'the authorities should take up a programme to open the starting points of all the canals originated from the rivers Surma and Kushiyaara with a view to save the 30,000 acres of croplands from inundation every year as well as to save the thousands of poor farmers of the thana. The 90 per cent of the population have to depend on these lands, he added. He further said that, a number of deputations had been sent to the Water Development Board as well as to the Administrative officials in this regard. But, no effective measure has yet been taken. It has angered the people of the region, he viewed.

## Work on academic buildings remain incomplete

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Apr 7: The construction work of academic building of Rajnagar Degree College remains abandoned.

According to an official source, construction of a two-storied building of the college had been taken in 1994-95 financial year by the facilities Department at the Ministry of Education at an estimated cost of Taka 25 lakh, which was left incomplete causing difficulties to the students.

College source alleged that the contractor, who was appointed for construction work through tender, started work in May 1995. The contractor, however, completed the work of pillars and roofs of the two-floors, but walls were yet to be constructed. Not only this, without any notice of the college authority, the contractor left the work about six months ago.

In the meantime, the facilities department has approved another scheme to construct 2nd floor of the same building in separate schedule and an additional Taka 10 lakh has been sanctioned for this. But as the work of 1st schedule was left incomplete by the contractor, the Facilities Department could not call the tender for the second schedule.

The college authority informed the matter to the engineers of the Facilities Department several times but no steps have been taken against

the contractor and there are no arrangement to complete the remaining work of the first schedule work after passing of more than six months.

A reliable source said that some activists of a powerful student organisation of Rajnagar Degree College unit allegedly demanded toll from the said contractor in the name of their party conference. After failing to collect toll from the contractor the angry workers of the said students organisation damaged a portion of the newly constructed half done building, it is said. The contractor informed about the incident to the authority of the project work, it was learnt.

When contacted, a field engineer of the Facilities Department said that, the situation of Rajnagar Degree College building construction was duly informed to them and they are trying to re-start the remaining work of the first schedule of the building. They will soon invite tender for the work of 2nd schedule of the same building.

The Engineer explained that according to the first schedule — ground floor and first floor will be completed and the second schedule is entitled for the work of second floor of the building. A total of Taka 35 lakh was sanctioned for the second schedule of which Taka 25 lakh is for first one. He also added that, if the situation

demands they will cancel the work of the contractor who was appointed for the work of first schedule and left the work incomplete. But after passing six months, there are no initiative to start the remaining work of the said building.

Besides this, The Saifur Rahman Bhavan of Rajnagar Degree College also remained incomplete for want of fund. According to the source of the college the Saifur Rahman Bhavan, another academic building was financed by the then finance minister M Saifur Rahman.

After expenditure of Taka ten lakh, only fifty percent work had been completed it still remains abandoned. It is alleged that large scale malpractice had taken place during its construction work. Without any tender, the work of the Saifur Rahman Bhavan was supervised by a development committee which was constituted with some local leaders. The said development committee failed to complete the building even after expending Taka Ten lakh.

After passing of two years, further fund was not yet allotted to complete the work and the committee even now is waiting for further fund. Teachers and students of the college urged the authorities concerned to complete the work of two academic buildings immediately.



CHANDPUR: Rivers Meghna and Dakatia threatened fresh areas in Natun and Puran Bazar areas in Chandpur town. Last week more areas came under attack from river erosion. —Star photo



Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) organised a folkdancing festival in front of the Jatiya Press Club in observance of World Health Day yesterday. —Star photo