

**JCD leader arrested**

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Apr 10: Police picked up Delwar Jahan, General Secretary, Bhairab thana unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal from Bhairab bus stand area on April 4.  
He was later sent to the court of Magistrate who granted three days police remand.  
He had been wanted in a number of cases for long, police said.

**Bail petition of chairman, 21 others rejected**

JHALAKATHI, Apr 10: The bail petitions of the arrested poura chairman and 21 others were rejected by the Magistrate here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Court sources said Magistrate Mahtab Uddin rejected the bail petitions of them against whom there are three cases filed by Jatiya Party leader Advocate Abdul Bari and Awami League leader Alamgir Hossain Dular.  
Police arrested them, including Poura chairman Halim Gazi, Vice-President of local BNP Shamsul Alam Jahangir, Joint Secretary Wares Ali Khan, convener of Juba Dal Monirul Islam Nupur and Joint Convener Mahub Alam Khan on March 30.  
They also recovered some arms and ammunition from their possession.

**Indiscriminate felling of date-trees hit molasses output in Jessore**

From Our Correspondent  
JESSORE, Apr 10: Felling of date-tree is rampant following its increasing demand in the brick-fields in the district, causing destruction to it thereby intensifying problem of deforestation, said sources.  
According to reports, all the brick-fields, in the district depend on supply of local wood including bat, tetul, pakor, simul, babla and date-tree as fuel to burn or bake bricks. Date-tree in preferred first among them in supply and use, the report added.

Low cost and easier in availability has allured the brick-filled owners to prefer date-trees.  
Piece of date-tree measuring three and half cubic feet in size is selling at Taka 30 to 35 in this season, while the rate was Taka 20 to 25 to last year. Growing scarcity in supply has led to the price-hike, the source said.

According to unofficial survey conducted a few years ago, there were seven lakh date-trees all over the district. Indiscriminate felling has already reduced about two-third the number. It is also reported that re-vegetation of date plants is nursing and protection has been stopped long ago. It is apprehended that date-trees, mostly grown in this part of the country, will soon vanish.  
Incidentally drastic reduction in number of date-trees, has adversely affected 'gur' (molasses) production.  
According to customs department total number of brick-fields in the district is 148. During this year, 123 of them are in operation. Another source said that unofficial figure is much higher.  
When contacted, President, Jessore Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Abdur Razzak Khan told the Daily Star that thousands of tons of wood are presently being used to feed these brick-fields.

**Bus terminal project work in Moulvibazar not yet executed**

From Our Correspondent  
MOULVIBAZAR, April 10: The project for the construction of bus terminal at Moulvibazar taken up by the then Chittagong Divisional Development Board in 1979-80 fiscal year with an allocation of Taka two lakh has not yet been executed.

It is gathered that the Comilla Regional Development Board (CRDB) had also allocated an amount of Taka four lakh for the construction of the bus stand during 1985-86 fiscal year but the allocated fund was withdrawn by the authority concerned and diverted the fund for the development of Moulvibazar Women's College.  
The bus passengers of Dhaka, Comilla, Chittagong, Hobiganj, Brahmanbaria, Sylhet, Sunamganj are facing great inconveniences due to absence of a bus stand and other facilities at Moulvibazar for long.

Thousands of bus passengers badly suffer for want of a suitable waiting room, both for male and female passengers. The female passengers are often seen standing on the road.  
Absence of urinals also are causing immense trouble to the passengers particularly the female and children. Their sufferings become more acute during rainy seasons when waiting passengers find no alternative but to stand under the open sky.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: LP Gas Buyers Association recently brought out a procession in the town demanding LP gas cylinders at fair price. They later handed over a memorandum demanding immediate checking of selling of gas cylinders in black market to the DC. — Star photo

**Dealers blamed for present situation**

**Fertilizer crisis seriously affects IRRI-boro production**

From SK Md Shahidul Islam

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 10: The production target of IRRI-cultivation will not be achieved as acute scarcity and abnormal price hike of chemical fertilizers in all seven thanas of the district was disrupting and hampering the smooth cultivation of IRRI-Boro crops during the peak time of IRRI paddy-cultivation and the such problems is a regular feature here in every peak time.  
Local people alleged that a section of unscrupulous businessmen hoarding a huge quantity of Triple Super Phosphat (TSP) fertilizer were creating an artificial crisis in the markets. They also sell Single Super Phosphat (SSP) in the name of TSP, by deceiving the farmers.  
It was also alleged that some dishonest dealers were allegedly selling adulterated and impure fertilizer in several shops and stores in the market.

In the rural markets the same fertilizers were being sold at very high rate which was beyond the purchasing capacity of poor and middle class cultivators.  
Farmers alleged that the supply of urea fertilizer, TSP and MP fertilizer were not at all satisfactory in the local markets, a section of dishonest dealers showing licence to the company buy urea fertilizer at cheaper rate fixed at Taka 186.25 for a bag of urea of 50 kg and, sell them at high rate near company gate. Although the dealers were ordered to sell the fertilizer at their respective areas. Most of the dealers did not do so.

While contacted a dealer said that the allotment of urea fertilizer were poor for Brahmanbaria area for which it would not cope with the demand during the peak season of the cultivation.  
According to AED office sources, 5,994 metric tons of urea fertilizer were allocated in January 1996, 4,472 metric tons of urea fertilizer were allocated in February and 3,956 metric tons of urea fertilizer were allocated in March '96 and the authority also requested BCIC to give extra allotment of 2000 metric tons in March 1996 to cope with the demand.

86,000 hectares of lands under HYV-upshy paddy cultivation and 4200 hectares of lands under local variety of paddy while the production target was fixed up in 2,78,510 metric tons.  
According to a last report (recorded on 15th March) of AED Brahmanbaria office sources 81,400 hectares lands out of 86000 hectares were cultivated under HYV of IRRI paddy and the farmers also cultivated 4840 hectares of lands under local variety of paddy in lieu of 4200 hectares of local variety paddy cultivable lands.

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In this connection a dealer said that the respective officer did not plan properly as allotment of urea fertilizer was very poor for the district.  
According to a report about maximum 18,816 metric tons of urea will be needed for only 90200 hectares of IRRI-Boro paddy land for a season. Accordingly the allotment of urea in January to March was poor as the farmer put the said amount of fertilizer not only in IRRI-Boro field but also in the field of other crops.

The allotment of the urea fertilizer may be doubled in the next peak season of the IRRI-Boro paddy cultivation, AED office sources said.



BRAHMANBARIA: Due to lack of irrigation and scarcity of fertilizer huge areas of crop land in Shahbazpur of the district still remain untouched by the farmers. — Star photo

lets only to earn a good profit. Some dishonest traders were flooding the markets with impure fertilizer. The name of the such fertilizers are, SSP-bishhas, SSP-soyatan, SSP-Laksmi, SSP-tiger, Bangladhula, China-dhula, Mishorydhula, SSP-block etc. These were sold at rate between Tk. 210 and to Tk. 355.00 while a bag of Triple Super Phosphat (TSP) of 50 kg was being sold at more than Tk. 565 and Mureate of Potas (MP) fertilizer was being sold at price of Tk 355 at Ashugoni Ferry Ghat Market near Zia Fertilizer Company Limited (ZFC) of the district.  
Farmers alleged that some traders in Chandurabazar were selling urea fertilizer at the rate of Tk 360 per bag of 50 kg against the official fixed price of Tk. 186.50.

It is reported that many farmers did not at all till their land and some of the farmers planted local variety Boro paddy in their lands instead of High Yield Variety (HYV) - IRRI paddy in the district.  
In this connection, Farid Mia, a cultivator of Shazadpur village said that due to shortage of fertilizer and irrigation they changed their decision to cultivate the lands.  
It is learnt that about 3,960 hectares of HYV-IRRI cultivable lands were not cultivated and have remained empty while, another 640 hectares of HYV cultivable lands were cultivated under local variety of paddy.

According to Agricultural Extension Department (AED) Brahmanbaria office sources, they took a plan to bring

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**Drought causing serious damages to standing crops**

From Our Correspondent

KUSHLIA, Apr 10: The dry weather for the last five months in Kushtia and its adjoining areas has continued causing widespread damage to the standing crops including the vegetables worth crores of taka.  
Scarcity of rain except for a few occasions has helped drying up of ponds, canals, wells and other waterbodies. As a result marshy land throughout the district have turned hard. It is now impossible to plough those lands says one farmer. Production target of rabi crop including irri Boro paddy has been badly affected. Twenty-five per cent of the standing crops of the district have already been damaged by the persisting drought.

The drought has also caused fall in ground water level in the area bringing scarcity of drinking water as most of the hand-driven tubewells have become inoperative. The abnormal fall in ground water level has left the deep and shallow tubewells throughout the district almost inoperative. According to sources 50 per cent of the tubewells installed in the district are not working

and as a result the irrigation process to those areas has come to a standstill. The impact of drought has now severely affected harvesting of all summer crops which may be delayed until rain starts. Drought has also damaged huge amount of mango sprouts which appeared in large number in almost all the trees of the area.

All hopes and aspirations of the owners of these mango trees have been washed away. Fall in level of river water due to drought has also affected the internal navigation routes. Hundreds of farmers have fallen victims to this dry weather which has been persisting since early November last year.

Farmers who were preparing to sow seeds now sit idle hoping rain can only rescue their wishes. In the meantime those farmers who had already harvested summer crops face huge losses due to loss of standing crops. Hundreds of farmers had received loan to cultivate summer crops but drought had crushed every hope they had. One farmer said, 'how do I repay the money, I had borrowed from the bank? At the same time vegetables worth crores of taka were damaged due to shortage of water in the ground. One farmer said he had lost all his vegetable he had cultivated. Meanwhile dry weather may continue for at least a month, weather expert said.

Two minor girls drown  
KISHOREGANJ, Apr 10: Two minor girls drowned in separate incidents in Nikli thana on April 3.  
Topy, 8, daughter of Abdur Rahman of village Kumarchara went to the pond just behind the house for taking bath. She was later recovered from under the water in an unconscious state and immediately brought to the Nikli thana health complex where the doctors declared her dead.  
In another incident, Amina, granddaughter of Abu Mia drowned in a pond at village Meerhati.

**Metropolitan**



Jatiya Ainjibi Forum brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding release of Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad before the parliamentary polls. — Star photo



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) president Fazlul Haq Milan addressing a rally at city's Tophkhana Road yesterday. The rally was organised to protest attack on BNP processions in Chittagong on Tuesday. — Star photo

**Police raid Agriculture College hall**

By Staff Correspondent

Police in its ongoing special arms recovery drive arrested 10 persons and seized fire arms and ammunition in separate raids in the city yesterday.  
A special police team in a raid at Sher-e-Bangla hall of the Agriculture College arrested one person and recovered 21 rounds different types of bullets, three hockey sticks and three razors, police sources said. A case has been filed with Tejgaon thana.  
In another raid in a slum near Syedabad bus terminal under Demra thana at around 1:15 pm. Police arrested six persons and seized one revolver, one foreign-made gun and cocktails.

The arrested were identified as Babul, 28, Delwar Hossain, 22, Noman Mahmud alias Pavel, 24, Anwar Hossain, 26, Mahubur Rahman alias Babu, 24, and Md Shahid, 24, police said.  
Meanwhile, the detective branch police in a raid at a match factory at Shampur under Demra thana at around 5 am yesterday arrested three persons and recovered one revolver, one pistol, one rifle, 34 rounds of bullets.  
The arrested were identified as Ali, 30, Ayub Ali, 28, and Azad, 27.  
The arms and ammunition were found in the room of the security guards of the factory, police added. A case has been filed with Demra thana.

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**Inclusion of women in EC demanded**

The Aih O Salishi Kendra has called for the inclusion of women in the 6-member Election Commission which is to be formed soon, says a press release.  
In every election ever held in this country, in certain areas women have been prevented from exercising their voting rights freely. We believe women member in the EC will be able to curb such practices by taking necessary steps. Therefore, it is imperative that women be included in the EC which will conduct the next general election, the statement said.

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**Missing**

By Staff Correspondent

Russel Mahmud, 10, son of Md Nurul Islam, has been missing from East Nakhapara under Tejgaon thana in the city since Tuesday afternoon.  
Russel who is 4 feet 8 inch tall and of medium complexion was wearing blue trouser and white shirt at the time of missing.  
A student of class five at Hossain Ali School, Nakhapara, Russel, did not return to his residence at 275/1, East Nakhapara, after he had gone out at 2 pm. He had only come home from the school at around 1:30 pm that day to have lunch, family sources said.  
The boy had not reported to the school either, according to the General Diary filed with Tejgaon thana.  
Anybody having any knowledge about his whereabouts have been requested to contact Md Nurul Islam or Md Motiur Rahman, 275/1 East Nakhapara, Tel: 9568011, 9569155, said a press release.

**Obituary**

Jahanara Begum, wife of late Saidur Rahman of Sonapur and daughter of late Dr Serajul Haq of Bashurhat, Noakhali, died Tuesday night at Chittagong. She was 80, family sources said, reports BSS.

**Car stolen**

By Staff Correspondent

A silver colour Toyota Starlet - Chhatta-metro-Kha 4216 - was stolen from in front of the Alliance Francaise in the city around 9 pm on April 8.  
The owner of the car, Jamal Ahmed, professor at the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, has filed a general diary with Dhanmondi thana.

**Bhutanese king felicitates Chief Adviser**

By Staff Correspondent

Bhutanese King Jigme Singy Wangchuck yesterday felicitated the Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman on his assumption of office, reports UNB.

The people and the government of Bhutan join me in conveying our best wishes to the non-party caretaker government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.  
Wangchuck hoped that the formation of this government will usher in peace and restore normalcy in the life of the people of Bangladesh.

He expressed confidence that the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be strengthened in the coming days, said a PID handout today.

**Weather**

**Dry weather likely**

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry across the country except Sylhet division where light rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind may occur at one or two places in the next 12 hours till 6 pm Thursday, reports UNB.

Met Office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged throughout the country.  
Country's highest temperature 40.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Ishurdi and the lowest 17.8 degrees at Rangpur.  
The sun sets today at 6.19 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:43 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	35.8	24.9	77	60
Chittagong	32.0	24.8	75	76
Rajshahi	39.0	21.5	35	20
Khulna	36.7	25.0	81	64
Barisal	35.4	24.6	85	70

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Facilities Department, Patuakhali Zone  
**Tender Notice**  
No. 21/VTI/Revenue/PZ/FD/95-96 Dated: 13-03-96/30-11-1402BS  
Tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are hereby invited from A-1 class contractors of Facilities Department for execution of the undermentioned works:

Group No.	Description of work	Estimated cost (Taka)	Earnest money (Taka)	Time limit for completion of work (month)	Price per shaft (Taka)
1	2	3	4	5	6

**Head of Account:-137-Education-Revenue**  
01 Reconstruction of workshop building of Patuakhali VTI, Patuakhali (Part-1) 3,10,970/= 6,300/= 2 (two) months 400/= (one)  
02 Reconstruction of workshop building of Patuakhali VTI, Patuakhali (Part-2) 4,99,798/= 10,000/= 2 (two) months 400/= (two)

- Application should be made in own letterhead pad for purchasing tender schedule. Documentary signature of enlistment register, VAT registration number paper etc. should be submitted with the application and attested copy of the same documents should be attached at the time of submitting tender schedule.
- Tender documents can be purchased by cash payment of the price (non-refundable) per set up to 18-04-96 during office hours from the office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Patuakhali, Barisal, Bagerhat, Khulna & Jessore Zone and Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department, Patuakhali & Barguna districts.
- Tenders will be received by the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Patuakhali, Barisal, Bagerhat, Khulna & Jessore Zone and Assistant Engineers, Facilities Department of the respective districts at the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Patuakhali & Barguna up to 12-00 Noon of 20-04-96 and opened on the same day at 12-30 PM in presence (if any) of the tenders.
- Prescribed amount of earnest money must be submitted with each tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any approved scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of 'Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Patuakhali Zone'.

**Special terms & conditions:-**  
a) If the total tender value is found to be more than 5% (five per cent) below the estimated cost, then the tender will be treated as cancelled.  
b) The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

Shamsuddin Ahmad  
Executive Engineer  
Facilities Department  
Patuakhali Zone  
DFP 7013/64  
G-455

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Directorate  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bagerhat  
Memo No LGED/EE/Bagerhat/1(Part-2)/95-96/1390 Dated: 18-12-1402BS  
01-04-96Eng  
**LGED Tender Notice**  
No 26/95-96  
Item-wise rate quoting tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are invited from LGED enlisted contractors/contractor firms with prequalification for different projects (renewed in 1995-96 financial year) for implementation of the undermentioned schemes in Morrelganj thana of this district under Local Government Engineering Directorate during 1995-96 financial year.

Serial No.	Name of work	Description of Project	Price of schedule	Time limit for implementation	Class of contractor
1	Road development with HBB from Ghoshikhali Bazar to Sadhurmela via Shannikjore, Deutatala under Morrelganj thana	LGED At the rate 2.5% (two point five zero per cent) of the quoted tender rate.	300/-	60 days	All class
2	Road development with HBB from Shanki Bhanga to Boserhat via Thana Sadar Hospital under Morrelganj Thana.	-do-	300/-	60 days	All class

**Terms & Conditions**  
1. Tender documents can be purchased at prescribed price (non-refundable) and detailed information seen/know from the office of the Superintending Engineer (Maintenance), LGED, 4/5, Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207/Executive Engineer, LGED, Khulna/Satkhira and Thana Engineers concerned as well as the office of the undersigned up to 21-4-96 (08-01-1403BS) during office hours.  
2. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the above offices up to 1-00 pm of 22-4-96 (09-1-1403BS) and all tenders will be opened on the same day at 1:30 P.M. in presence (if any) of the tenders or their nominated representatives simultaneously.  
3. Work schedule stating the time for completion of each stage of work should be submitted with the tender. Tender submitted without work schedule will be treated as cancelled outright.  
4. Item-wise rate with rate analysis (in figures & words) should be quoted in the proforma attached to tender schedule, no percentage rate will be acceptable. If rate per item is not quoted in words, then the tender will be treated as cancelled outright.  
5. True copy (attested) of VAT & Income Tax certificates should be attached with the tender, otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.  
6. Earnest money at the rate 2.50% (two point five zero per cent) of the rate quoted by the contractor should be deposited with the tender as advance security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank, otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled outright.  
7. VAT, Income Tax & security will be deducted from the bill of the contractor as per govt rules.  
8. If the work is not started within 7 (seven) days of issuing of work order, security of the contractor will be forfeited and the work order will be treated as cancelled outright (without assigning any reason).  
9. Interested contractors may see & know other necessary information and terms & conditions during office hours.  
10. Additional terms & conditions will be treated as part of the tender.  
11. The undersigned reserves full right to accept or reject tender without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer  
Local Government Engineering Directorate  
Bagerhat.  
DFP-6876-44  
G-452