

40 rivers dry up

Ground water level fall hits cultivation

PABNA, Apr 15: Some 40 rivers in 26 districts of southern and northern regions dried up due to the drought prevailing since the beginning of the current season, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, crops on about 30 lakh acres of land in these districts may be affected as most of the irrigation pumps have gone out of order due to sudden fall in ground water level, official sources said.

The sources said ground water level came down to 85

feet from 60 feet which badly affected about 80,000 power pumps in 16 northern districts and may also hit more 1,42,000 pumps.

For this, the production target of 25,69,345 metric tons Boro paddy would not be achieved and may drop by 50 per cent in these districts, according to Agriculture Extension Department sources.

Barind Development Project, an irrigation project of Pabna, Teesta Project, Gangetic-Kabaddi (GK) Project are on the verge of closure of which GK project, Irrigation Project and North Bengal Paper Mills remained closed for the fall in water level, the sources added.

The rivers Mahananda, Chitra, Gorai, Atrai, Teesta, Boral, Ichhamati, Fulmor, Dhaleshwari, Gumani and Chiknai almost dried up and people can easily cross these on foot.

Riverine route between Sirajganj-Bhuapur ferry service often remain close due to fall of water level, but the Aricha-Nagarbari-Daulatdia ferry services have been keeping normal through the routine dredging work.

Meanwhile, people of all pauras areas of Pabna district have been facing water crisis and passing hard days in their day to day life.

The prevailing drought coupled with the adverse effect of Farakka has also crippled the daily life of about two crores population of these areas.

Contraband worth Tk 1.7 lakh seized in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Apr 15: Bangladesh Rifles, in separate raids, seized illegal goods worth Tk 1.71 lakh from different border areas of the district during the last month, reports UNB.

Commanding Officer of 27th battalion Major Khaled Saifullah said acting on tip-off, BDR jawans raided the urban and rural areas and recovered the smuggled goods.

The goods were sugar, salt, bi-cycle and its parts, grapes, tobacco, goat hides, watch, phensedyl, jute seeds, insecticide and cows.

Four smugglers were arrested in this connection and 35 cases including four criminal cases were filed during the month.

1.5 lakh children to be immunized in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Apr 15: About 1.50 lakh children, under the age of five will be immunized in the district under nationwide National Immunization Days '96 (NID) on April 16 and May 16, reports UNB.

District Health Department will conduct the days through 1,144 centres at 44 unions in Gosalando, Pangsha, Baliakandi and Sadar thana to make the programme a success.

In this regard, a planning and advocacy meeting of the district health department and UNICEF was held at Civil Surgeon's office on Thursday with Civil Surgeon Dr Laila Banu in the chair. Deputy Commissioner AFM Motiur Rahman attended as chief guest.

NIDs are being observed in the country from last year in which polio vaccines and vitamin A capsules are being given to children with a target to eradicate polio from the country by the year 2000.

3 student bodies demand arrest of terrorists in Jhalakathi

JHALAKATHI, Apr 15: Three student bodies in a joint rally on Saturday night at Choumatha in the town demanded recovery of illegal arms and arrest of terrorists, reports UNB.

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League, Jatiya Party-backed Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and Jamaat-e-Islami supported Islami Chhatra Shibir jointly organised the rally.

It was addressed by JP leader Mobarak Hossain Malik and Tapon Sarkar. AL leader A M Alauddin, Jamaat leader Nasaruddin and paura commissioner Afzal Hossain Rana.

Among the student leaders, Tarek Karmakar and Abu Syed Khau of BCL, Syed Abu Shahid of JCS and Shah Jamal of JCS addressed the rally. JCS president Shobur Morshed Sohel presided.



SYLHET: A procession was brought out in the town on Thursday demanding additional flights in Sylhet-Dhaka route for non-ballottee Haj pilgrims from Sylhet.

—Star photo

Lack of quality seeds may hamper cotton cultivation

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 15: Cotton cultivation likely to be hampered during next cropping season due to lack of improved seeds in Jhenidah zone.

According to reports, Cotton Development Board (CDB) took a target to cultivate cotton seeds on 10,200 hectares of land in Jhenidah and Magura districts this season and it was cultivated on 8,000 hectares of land.

Cotton Development Board sources said their Jhenidah zone covers Mohepur, Jinnagar, Napa, Shyamkur, Gurudha, Kotchandpur, Jhenidah sadar, Dakbangla and Seikhpara units in Jhenidah district and Ichhakhada, Satrujitpur, Sreepur and Magura units in Magura district.

M A Waseque, Chief Cotton Development Officer (CCDO)

Jhenidah zone, said that cotton seeds are cultivated between the Bengali month of 'Asharh' and 'Kartik.' By cultivating cotton, a farmer can earn Taka 15,000 from one bigha of land. But the figure might not exceed Taka 3,000 if he cultivates other crops.

Azhar Rahman, 45, a farmer of village Garakhola-Mohespur in Saikupa thana said that he was cultivating cotton seeds on one acre of land which brought Taka 30,000 excluding all expenses. He also said that the local and outside buyers purchase the cotton seeds at the rate of Taka 1,100 and 1,250 per maund from their land while harvesting. But government has fixed the price at Taka 857 per maund. As a result, the farmers show their interest to sell the crop to private buyers. Further, the private buyers sometimes purchase cotton seeds in pre-mature condition. It was very profitable to them, the farmer said.

Another farmer of village Chandpur in Saikupa thana informed this correspondent that many ginners were interested to invest money for purchasing cotton seeds and giving advance to the farmers.

Abdul Hal, Cotton Unit Officer (CUO), Saikupa unit, told that cotton farming gaining popularity in his zone as the crop was profitable. He said that 700 hectares of land was brought under cotton farming in his zone and it will be increased to at least 1,000 hectares in next year.

CCDO Jhenidah informed that cotton seeds cultivation might be hampered next year in Jhenidah and Magura districts as acute quality seed crisis is prevailing there. He further told that they were able to procure only 900 maunds of cotton seeds which might be supplied among the farmers out of a target of 4,000 maunds. CCDO said that another about 1,000 maunds of cotton seeds are preserved by the farmers but the quality of those seeds could not be ensured as almost all the farmers collected these before maturing. This sub-standard quality might hamper the yield, CCDO apprehended.

Lack of basic amenities in Nijhum Dwip

MAIJDEE COURT, (Noakhali), Apr 15: About 7000 people of Nijhum Dwip are passing miserable life for long due to lack of basic amenities, reports UNB.

Situated about 50km away from Hatiya thana, the island lacks mainly communication, health care and educational facilities. The people cannot carry out their agricultural and commercial activities due to bad communication system. The island has no road link with the nearest Hatiya thana.

About 60 per cent people of the island are farmers while the rest 40 per cent are engaged in fishing.

The Nijhum Dwip is attractive for its scenic beauty and its forest resources are rich. Local elite said the island could be made a lucrative tourist spot by improving the communication network.

Metropolitan

President urges journalists to cooperate with caretaker govt

A 16-member delegation of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad, led by its president Prof Majidul Islam, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Talking to them, President Biswas said the journalist community could play a vital role in cooperating with the caretaker government in its drive for recovery of illegal arms and holding the next general elections in a free, fair and impartial manner.

"Law and order is the prime necessity of the day," the president remarked and said "we should work unitedly and sincerely to maintain peaceful atmosphere in the country."

President Biswas observed that the press is the reflection of public opinion which should be projected impartially and with utmost objectivity. He recalled that the journalists have played in the past their due role in highlighting the hopes and aspirations of the people.

In a democratic country the press, which is called the fourth state, acts as a powerful medium of guiding the nation towards its cherished goal, he added.

The President recalled the recent events of peaceful transfer of power to the caretaker government and said, it is the duty of all to help and cooperate with the government in holding the elections peacefully.

The members of the delegation thanked the president for playing a memorable role in solving the prolonged political impasse of the country in a very positive way.

Secretary general of the parishad Abul Kashem Majumdar of Daily Samachar, vice-president Abul Asad of Daily Sangram, joint secretary-general Syed Mesbahuddin of Daily Janapad and members of the parishad Chowdhury Muhammad Faruque of Daily Meilat, A M M Bahauddin of Daily Inquilab, Mahbub Anam of the Bangladesh Times, Sirajul Islam of The Morning Sun, Shaikh Nazrul Islam of Daily Lal Shabuj, Mozammel Huq of Daily Karotoa (Bogra), Mokt- abim Nur of Daily Jalalabad, (Sylhet), Shaikh Habiburrahman of Daily Jahian (Mymensingh), Abdur Rashid of Daily Bangladesh Barta (Kushtia), Abul Hossain of Daily Aker Pratasha, Shamsul Huq Durrani of Daily Nouroj and Jalaluddin Rumi of Daily Nagorik were present on the occasion.

Attack on Hasan Imam condemned

Different film societies yesterday condemned the attack on Syed Hasan Imam, president of Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies and a leader of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, reports UNB.

In separate statements, Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies, Argenta International Film Society and Zahid Rathan Chalachitra Sangsad demanded immediate punishment of those responsible for the incident.

IUB welcomes Baishakh

The students committee of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) organized a cultural programme welcoming the Bengali new year, 'Pahela Baishakh' at the Baridhara Park on Sunday, reports BSS.

President of IUB Dr. A Majeed Khan, Vice President Wajid Ali Khan Fanni, Vice Rector Dr. B M Chowdhury, members of faculties, students, guardians and guests attended the function.

Rotary Free Friday Clinic inaugurated

Healthcare system in a country like Bangladesh needed considerable development to meet the basic requirements of the teeming millions, the Adviser for Health and Family Welfare said, reports UNB.

"Healthcare is a basic requirement and access to healthcare facilities is a fundamental right," adviser Dr. Abdur Rahman Khan said inaugurating a Rotary Free Friday Clinic at Loharpool area at Sutrapur on Sunday.

The socio-economic development and welfare of a nation is greatly dependent on the state of health enjoyed by its people, Dr Khan observed.

Due to various health hazard and lack of nutritional aspects, he said, the national health standard in the country is lying still low profile.

"Utilization of existing national resources and successful implementation of healthcare programme can raise the health standard of the country," the adviser said.

New body formed

A new organisation styled 'Citizens for Democracy, Bangladesh' was formed at a meeting held on Sunday, reports UNB.

S M Shamsul Haque Alinoor was elected the convenor of the body in the meeting presided over by Abdur Rashid.

Obituary

Syed Matinur Rahman, a retired deputy secretary, died of old age ailment at city's Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital early yesterday. He was 77, says a press release.

He left behind two sons and two daughters.

His quikhwant will be held on Thursday after Asar prayers at 16/A Dilu Road, New Eskaton.

All his friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qul.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Directorate of Housing

Office of the Property/Financial Manager
Dhaka City Infrastructure Development Project
Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216

Regarding issue of allotment letter to the allottees winning lottery of residential plots (for low-income & middle-income people) held in October/November '95 under Asian Development Bank aided "Dhaka City Infrastructure Development Project" at Mirpur, Dhaka.

It is hereby notified that "allotment letters" have been prepared in the names of allottees selected through the lottery held in October/November '95 for allotment of plots for low-income & middle-income people under Asian Development Bank aided Dhaka City Infrastructure Development Project of the Directorate of Housing at Mirpur, Dhaka, which the allottees are requested to collect by personally attending the office of the undersigned during office hours with the original receipt of submitting application by 15-05-96.

Md. Abdur Rauf
Property/Financial Manager
Dhaka City Infrastructure Development Project
Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216
Phone-380786

DFF-7601-9/4
G-485

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Commandant 5th Armed Police Battalion Barisal

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide Bangladeshi 1st class contractors/suppliers for (A) supply of fresh ration items & fuelwood (B) wheat crushing & (C) appointment of coolie contractor for 5th Armed Police Battalion, Barisal force from 1st July '96 to 30th June '97 of 1996-97 financial year. Tenders should be deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned by 12-00 Noon of 23-4-96 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM before the tender receiving committee & the tenderers (if any) present. With the tender, changeable Bank Draft/Pay Order for (A) group Taka 10,000/= (ten thousand), (B) group Taka 5,000/= (five thousand), (C) group Taka 3,000 (three thousand) from any scheduled commercial bank in favour of Police Super (Commandant) 5th Armed Police Battalion, Barisal as earnest money and Valid Trade Licence, Bank Solvency Certificate, Current Income Tax Certificate & related papers of business shall have to be deposited, otherwise the tender will not be acceptable.

The undermentioned groupwise tender schedule can be purchased from the section concerned of the office of the undersigned on 21-4-96 & 22-4-96 during office hours at Tk 750/- (seven hundred fifty) and Tk 400/- (four hundred) (non-refundable). No schedule will be sold on the date of receiving tender.

The tender receiving committee reserves the right to accept/reject any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

1. Group "A" supply of fresh ration items & fuelwood for the force.
2. Group "B" wheat crushing contractor.
3. Group "C" coolie contractor.

M Jamal Uddin Al-Azad
Commandant (Police Super)
5th Armed Police Battalion
Barisal
Phone: 2254 (Office) 2430 (Res)

DFF-7583-9/4
G-487

Headquarters Bangladesh Coast Guard

Plot No. 503, Lane No. 9
DOHS Joar Sahara
Dhaka-1206

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide traders/manufacturers/stockists for purchasing the undermentioned goods for Bangladesh Coast Guard.

Sl. No.	Name of goods	Quantity
1.	PPC Machine	2 nos.
2.	Video Camera	3 nos.
3.	Overhead Projector	6 nos.
4.	Slide Projector	3 nos.
5.	Screen	6 nos.
6.	Computer	2 nos.
7.	Paper Duplicating	30 reams.
8.	Paper Typing	20 reams.
9.	Paper Carbon	10 packets.
10.	Pencil	6 dozens.
11.	Signature pen	2 dozens.
12.	Text Marker Pen	1 dozen.
13.	Paper pin	20 packets.
14.	Gem's clip	20 packets.
15.	Stapler pin	15 packets.
16.	Stapler Machine large	6 nos.
17.	Stapler Machine small	6 nos.
18.	Binder Spiral	
19.	Drawing Set	6 nos.
20.	Drawing table	3 nos.
21.	Drawing pen	6 nos.
22.	TV 21" Sony	3 nos.
23.	VCP	3 nos.
24.	Charts	6 nos.
25.	Parallel ruler	6 nos.
26.	Binding tape	2 dozens.
27.	Rubber (eraser)	6 dozens.
28.	Pencil Cutter large	6 nos.
29.	Punching Machine	6 nos.

2. Tender with necessary terms & conditions can be collected at prescribed price (non-refundable) from the Coast Guard Headquarters on any working day up to office (0800-1300) hours. The tender will be opened on 23 April '96 at 1100 hours before the tenderers present.

3. The Director General, Coast Guard reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

M R Hossain
Commander BN
Director (Personnel)
Bangladesh Coast Guard

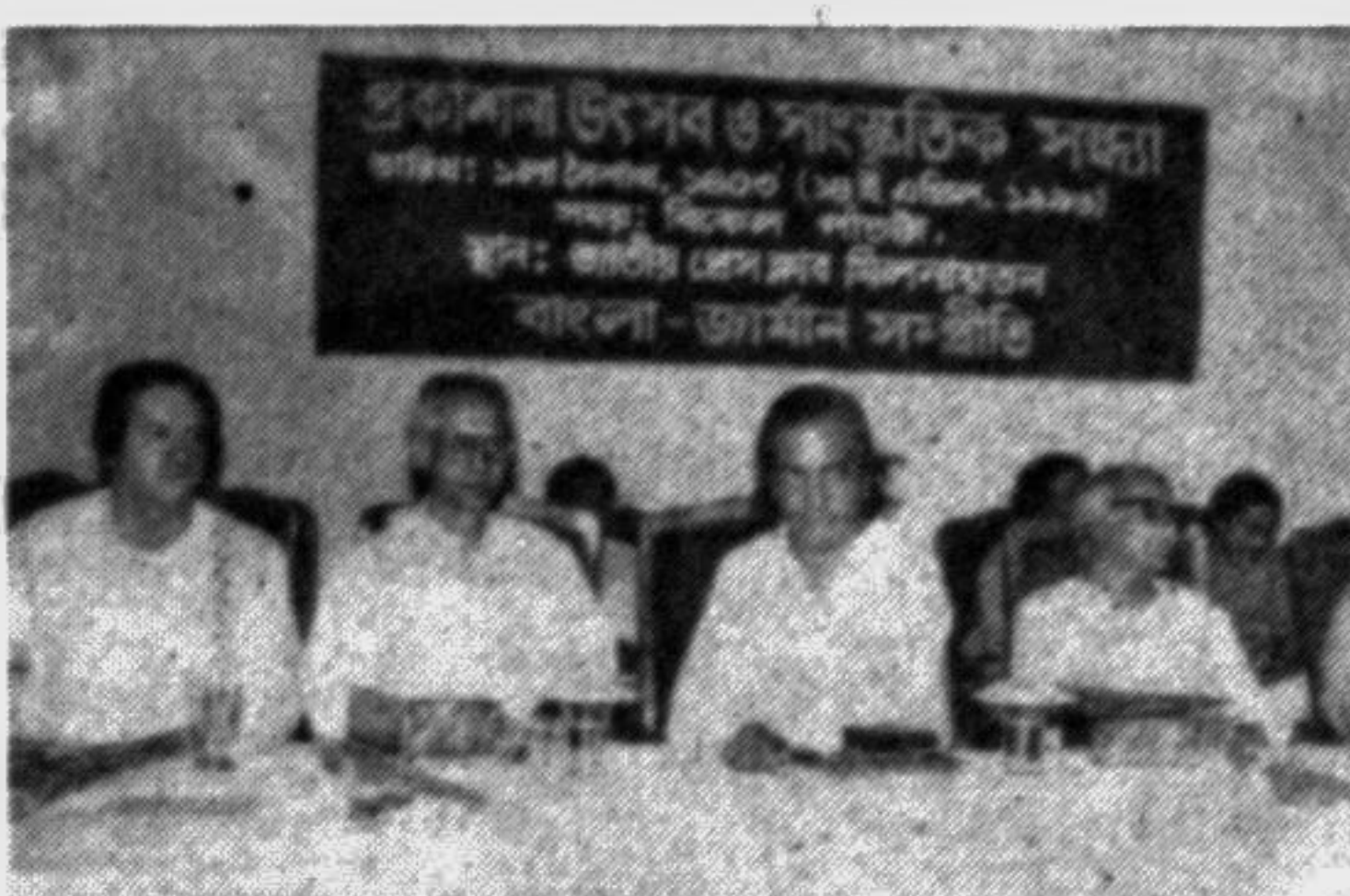
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G-486

Pahela Baishakh in pictures



Members of the Mukta Dip Samajik Sangskritik Sangathan performing dances in front of the Jatiya Press Club Sunday.

—Star photo



Publication ceremony and cultural evening organised by the Bangla-German Samprity at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium.

—Star photo



Noted model Bibi Russel at a rally in the city.

—Star photo



Noted litterateur and scientist Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin inaugurating the Shishu Academy programmes at the Academy premises.

—PID photo



Members of the Bulbul Lalitakala Academy rendering songs beside the Dhanmondi Lake.

—Star photo