

Four dacoits caught red-handed

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Apr 23: Four alleged dacoits were caught red-handed from village Jugla on Jessore, Magura road under Magura thana in greater Jessore and two guns with ammunition were recovered from their possession by police, when they were trying to attack an oil tanker bearing number Jessore BA 3525 on its way to wards Magura from Jessore at about 10 pm Sunday night, sources said. Arrested persons were, Abdul Rajjak son of Lutfor Rahman of Sakhia thana, Mizanur Rahman Kalu son of Barik of Magura thana in greater Jessore, Jahangir Alam son of Abdul Khalek of Kotwali in Barisal and Selim Bachu, son of Wahed Ali of Kalkini thana in Madaripur.

When contacted the officer-in-charge, Magura thana Abdul Jabbar told The Daily Star that acting on secret information, led by him a contingent of police rushed to the spot and them with fire-firms ammunition in co-operation with local people, when they were taking preparation to attack the oil tanker.

Schoolgirl killed in road accident

From CHT Correspondent
MANIKCHHARI (Khagrachhari), Apr 23: A schoolgirl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck Sunday evening at Gochhabill cluster village on Khagrachhari-Chittagong road in Manikchhari thana of the district.

Amena Begun, 11, was crossing the road when the truck hit her. She died on the spot.

Police seized the truck. However, the driver and the helper escaped. The body sent to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital for autopsy, and a case was lodged.

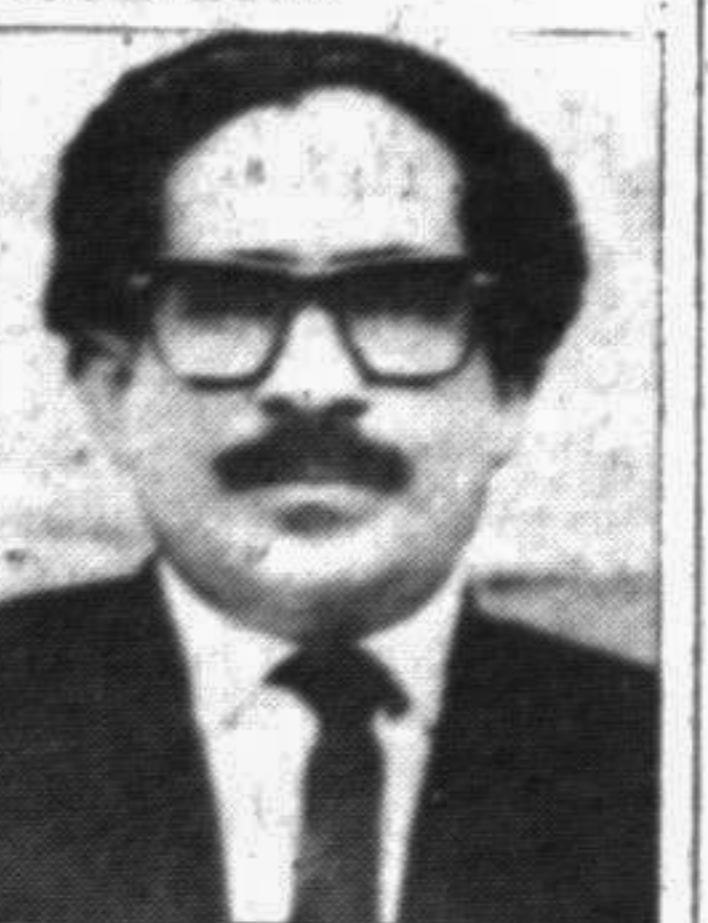
Meanwhile, 15 persons sustained injuries near Kalapani camps in Matiranga thana of the district yesterday when a truck and a minibus collided. The injured were rushed to Matiranga thana health complex.

5 held while attempting to commit robbery

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Apr 23: Five youngsters along with fire arms and other weapons were caught by the police from New Court Road area of Kishoreganj from last Thursday night.

They were preparing for committing robbery on the road, police said. Acting on a tip off, a police contingent gheraoed the miscreants who gathered in front of the office of Department of Public Health and Engineering for committing robbery and succeeded in catching five of them, named Shahjahan alias Ripon, Kashem, Babul, Sohel Mia alias Babu and Kamrul Islam. Police also recovered one pipe-gun, six rounds of ammunition, two rammers and one matchbox from their possession.

A case has been filed with Kishoreganj police station in this connection.



Death anniversary of Mashur Rahman observed

From A Correspondent
JESSORE, Apr 23: The 25th death anniversary of Shaheed Mashur Rahman — an unsung hero of our war of independence — was observed by his family and local people today (Tuesday) at his village home at Singhjuli in Jessore.

The Milad Mahfil and Quran Khani, held on the occasion was attended by a large number of people. Destitutes and orphans were also fed.

Shaheed Mashur Rahman was picked up from his Jessore residence on the fateful night of March 25, 1971, and was taken to Jessore cantonment. He never returned alive. The leader, one of the front-ranking founder-member of the Awami League, was tortured to death when he refused to compromise and accept the conditions offered to him by the occupation army. He endured the torture for about a month and died on April 23.

In 1947, he at only 26, became youngest Chairman of Jessore District Board.

Shaheed Mashur Rahman was elected to the Provincial Assembly as a Jukta Front candidate and became minister in Late Ataur Rahman Khan's cabinet.

In 1970, he was elected a member of National Assembly.

Drought damages one-fourth crops in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Apr 23: Dry weather with continued hot spell in the district causing widespread damage to standing crops and hampering cultivation of summer crops, reports UNB.

While visiting several villages by this correspondent, it has been found that 25 per cent of the standing crops including rabi crops and irrigated paddy had already been damaged by the persisting drought.

Dry weather which has been prevailing since early November last year may continue for at least another month, according to the local weather experts.

Local peasants said scarcity of rainfall has dried up most of

the ponds, canals, beels, wells and other waterbodies in the district.

Following the continued drought marshy land throughout the district have turned hard. It is now impossible to plough the land, said a farmer. The abnormal fall in ground water level has left the deep and shallow tubewells throughout the district almost inoperative.

According to the sources, 50 per cent of the tubewells installed for irrigation in the district are not functioning now rendering the irrigation process to a standstill position. The drought has severely affected harvesting of all summer crops which may be delayed until rain starts. Farmers

who were taking preparations to sow seeds now sit idle expecting rain.

Drought has also damaged huge amount of mango sprouts which appeared in large numbers in almost all the trees of the area. All hopes and aspirations of the owners of these mango gardens have been washed away.

The drought has also caused fall of ground water level in the area bringing scarcity of drinking water as most of the hand tubewells have already become inoperative.

Fall of river water level due to the drought mainly caused by Farakka, has also affected the internal navigation routes adversely.



JAMALPUR: The bridge damaged during the last year's flood yet to be reconstructed. At least 65 bridges and culverts that were damaged during the flood, need immediate repair. — Star photo

RAKUB may not achieve loan disbursement target

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 23: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has disbursed Taka 131 crore in about 9 and a half months of the financial year, though it has a target to disburse Taka 250 crore loan in this financial year.

The same is the condition of loan realisation. During the current fiscal year, RAKUB has a target to realise Taka 627 crore loan but only Taka 109.05 crore loan has so far been realised up to April 11.

Such a sluggish and poor condition of disbursing and realising loans was not experienced in the past.

These were disclosed in the 25th conference of the Regional Managers held on April 18 at a local community centre.

Managing Director of the bank Yasin Ali presided over the conference while Advocate Emran Ali Sarkar, Chairman of the Board of Director of RAKUB was present in the conference as the chief guest and the two general managers of the bank A K M Sajedur Rahman and Abul Hossain were the special guests. The conference

was participated by 10 deputy general managers, 10 assistant general managers, five zonal managers and 18 regional managers. Managing Director Yasin Ali expressed dissatisfaction over the disappointing condition of loan disbursement and realisation and warned that the concerned officials would be held responsible if the situation does not improve in the next months.

The chairman of the bank Emran Ali expressed deep concern and said that it was a matter of regret that adequate number of farmers would not get loan and a huge amount of the allocated money would remain undistributed. It could not be allowed, he said and asked the officials of all levels to be more active to make the loan reach in hands of the farmers.

It may be mentioned here that Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank is functioning replacing Bangladesh Krishi Bank in 16 northern districts of Rajshahi Division for improvement of agriculture, agri-based industrialisation and business.

Pry education programme facing set-back in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Apr 23: Compulsory primary education programme in the district is being hampered due to various problems prevailing in the government primary schools, reports UNB.

According to local people, the problems included shortage of teaching staff, educational appliances, absence of tubewell and bad condition of toilets.

Official sources said there are 560 government primary schools and 200 registered and non-registered primary schools in five thanas of the district.

There is no tubewell in most of the schools and conditions of the toilets are also not satisfactory.

College student commits suicide in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Apr 23: A college student of Kushtia inter-kharul Alam, reportedly committed suicide at their Beldarpara home in the city early today, reports UNB.

Police said Alam, hanged himself from the ceiling of his room on the third floor of the house at 1 am.

He was buried at Tikapara graveyard here after autopsy at the RMCH morgue. A case was filed with Boalan thana.

In another incident, a minor girl drowned in a pond at Kathalbaria in the city area this afternoon.

Locals said the four-and-a-half-year-old Rashida fell into the pond and drowned at noon.

Uninterrupted power supply demanded

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Apr 23: Kushtia Unnayan Parishad in a meeting held recently demanded uninterrupted supply of electricity in Kushtia and its adjoining areas.

The meeting presided over by Advocate Faruq Azam Mridha was also addressed by other members of the parishad. Speakers bitterly criticised the PDB's role which is responsible for frequent load-shedding causing immense difficulties for the town dwellers particularly the students.

2.62 lakh children given polio vaccines in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Apr 23: Under global programme of eradication of polio by the year 2000, vaccination was successfully administered throughout the district, on April 16, the first phase of the National Immunisation Days (NIDs), officials said, reports UNB.

About 96 per cent children of under five in the district have been covered under the programme with vaccination of some 2,62,621 children. The fixed target in the district was 2,73,598.

Some 1958 makeshift centres were installed throughout the district where about 9,800 volunteers and health workers participated to make the programme successful.

The thana-wise break-up of children immunized are: Nargakanda 51,534, Sadar 48,757, Boalmari 34,399, Char Bhadrason 12,095, Sadarpur 29,046, Aljandanga 14,826 and Modhukhali 26,179.

In Faridpur Pourashava 9,142 children were given polio vaccine against the target of 12,526.

Pourashava Chairman Prof Fazlul Kabir claimed that in the poura areas the achievement of vaccination was 90 per cent according to their own registration of under five-year children.

He, however, admitted some lapses in poura areas and said that precautionary measures would be taken during the 2nd phase of NID scheduled for May 16.

Lightning kills 3 in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Apr 23: Lightning killed three persons at village Chowbari under Kamarkhandi thana of the district on last Monday evening in which seven persons were also injured.

It was learnt that lightning hit the residence of Nilu Talukdar of village Chowbari and Feroz aged 12 was killed on the spot, while Anisur Rahman, 14, and Abdul Alim, 25, died on way to Sirajganj sadar hospital. All the seven injured persons were admitted to Sirajganj general hospital.

Gold worth Tk two lakh recovered

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Apr 23: The BDR jawans recovered 30 tolas of gold worth Taka two lakh from two alleged smugglers in the Uthma border areas of Companyganj thana Saturday afternoon.

Official source said that a special team on information ambushed at a nearby place of the border. They found two persons moving suspiciously in the area. At one stage, the BDR jawans challenged them but the alleged smugglers tried to escape. Later BDR men caught them and recovered 30 bars weighing 30 tolas of gold from their possession. They were later handed over to the police after registration of a case with the Companyganj thana.

Nine godowns, transport office gutted in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 23: Nine godowns and a transport agency office were gutted in a devastating fire at Chandina Lane of Khatunganj in the port city Sunday night.

Fire brigade personnel, who rushed the spot, fought the blaze for over six hours from 12 midnight last night.

The fire reportedly originated from an electrical short-circuit. The extent of damage was yet to be ascertained.

Bus passengers robbed

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Apr 23: A dacoit bus dacoity was committed on Satkhira-Khulna road near Sakdah under Tala thana of the district recently. The dacoits looted cash and other valuables worth Taka about one lakh from the passengers of the bus.

According to Tala thana police, a Satkhira-bound mini-bus No Satkhira JA-88 from Khulna when reached the place of occurrence at about 7-30 pm, a group of dacoits numbering about 10 to 15 in disguise of passengers took control of the bus stabbing driver Nasir Uddin, helper Mashiar Rahman and a passenger Md Sharif. As a result they sustained injuries.

School textbook crisis in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Apr 23: Textbooks for class nine have not yet been available in the district and the students are suffering much.

It is reported that the National Textbook Board has introduced new curriculum for class six and class nine from this year but the books could not be supplied.

The new academic year has already begun and the teachers are facing difficulties in teaching the students for want of new books.

The students are guardians are rushing to the book stores in the district for new books every day but the book sellers can not ascertain when books as per new curriculum will reach markets.

According to sources, paper mills are the responsible for the delay as the mills authorities have supplied papers too late.

The sources also hold the Board authorities responsible for delay as they have supplied the copies of the books to the publishers late.

Biennial meet of AI ends

FENI, Apr 23: The fourth biennial meeting of the Amnesty International (AI) Bangladesh, concluded here at Shaheed Jahir Rahman auditorium on Saturday, reports UNB.

Presided over by Advocate Syed Mohammad Dastagir, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Advocate Jafarullah Khan, Osman Haider Chisti, Anwar Sadat Khan, Dr Nazmul Ahsan, Kalimullah and Mohammad Golam Mostafa.

Some 14 registered groups and 18 group information took part in the two-day deliberation which discussed human rights campaign activities, said a press release.

The meeting also elected a nine-member apex body for a two-year term with Syed Mohammad Dastagir, Hossain and Sheikh Sultan Box as president and secretary general respectively.

6 killed in Moulvibazar in three weeks

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 23: Six persons including a minor girl were killed in Moulvibazar district during the last three weeks in separate incidents, according to police.

A gang of miscreants slaughtered two employees of a furniture shop in Kulaura bazar under Kulaura thana on March 30.

The victims Abdur Razzak, 20, Abdul Mannan, 24, were killed in their sleep at dead of night, inside the furniture shop.

The bodies were later recovered by the Kulaura thana police and sent to the morgue for autopsy.

The reason behind the murder could not be ascertained and no arrest has been made till writing of this news. Police, however, investigating the matter.

Police of Moulvibazar Sadar thana recovered an unidentified body from Gumrah area near the Moulvibazar district police line on April 5.

Police source said that the victim was an young woman of 25 years old. A case was filed with the police.

A passer by, Babul, 20, of village Moulvibazar under Kamalganj thana was killed in a road accident on Moulvibazar-Shamsnagar road on April 2.

Eyewitnesses said, Babul while he was knocked down by a speeding truck when he was returning home. He was killed on the spot.

Police, however, seized the truck but the driver managed to escape.

A businessman was killed and two other were injured in a road accident at Kakier Bazar on Sylhet-Dhaka highway on April 4.

Police says, Ajmal Hussain Khan, 30, was killed on the spot when his motor-cycle dashed with the fence of a bridge. Other two passengers of the motor-cycle was injured and admitted to Moulvibazar hospital.

A UD case was registered with Srimangal thana in this connection.

Law & order situation worsens in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Apr 23: Overall law and order situation in the district town and its adjoining areas has deteriorated in the recent days, reports UNB.

According to the local sources, increasing crimes like highway dacoity, theft, hijacking, murder, gambling, rape, cattle lifting and smuggling are causing serious concern to the local people.

The miscreants move freely with illegal arms and engage in criminal activities local people alleged.

The people time and again urged the concerned authorities to nab the identified terrorists and masts. They in many cases do not dare to file cases against them for fear of life.

Local leaders have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to improve the law and order situation by arresting the miscreants.

Irrigation being hampered in Jhenidah

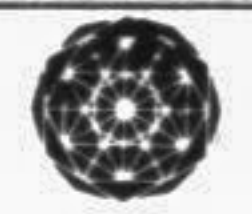
JHENIDAH, Apr 23: In absence of a regulator on Katakhal canal, irrigation on about 20,000 acres of land has been hampered at Dhanajoypur village in Sadar thana, reports UNB.

Farmers of the area, due to this, are being deprived of at least 12,000 metric tons of foodgrains and other crops worth about Tk 20 crore every year, official sources said.

Water Development Board constructed a narrow regulator at that place some 10 years back. But the road was washed away in the following rainy season making the regulator ineffective.

Meanwhile, local Government Engineering Department (GED) planned to construct a bridge there while the Water Development Board (WDB) decided to rebuild the regulator.

But both the plans went in vain in the wake of tug of war between the two departments.



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উপ-পরিচালক (প্রচার)

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর

ডিএফপি-৯০৭২-২৩/৪

জি-৫২২



RANGPUR: Children attending a mass education centre in Rangpur organised by the UNESCO Club. — Star photo