

National

Four dacoits caught red-handed

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, Apr 23: Four alleged dacoits were caught red-handed from village Jigla on Jessor. Magura road under Magura thana in greater Jessor and two guns with ammunitions 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 Jessor at about 10 pm Sunday night, sources said. Arrested persons were, Abdur Rajak son of Lutfur Rahman of Salikhia thana, Mizanur Rahman Kal son of Barki of Magura thana in greater Jessor, Jangir Alom son of Abdul Khaled of Kotwali in Barisal and Selim Bachu, son of Wahed Ali of Kalkini thana in Madaripur.

When contacted the office-in-charge, Magura thana Abdul Jabber 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 (Khagrachari), Apr 23: A schoolgirl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck Sunday evening at Gochhabill cluster village on Khagrachari-Chittagong road in Manikchhari thana of the district.

Amena Begum, 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 Khagrachari Sadar Hospital for autopsy, and a case was lodged.

Meanwhile, 15 persons sustained injuries near Kalapani camp 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.

Shahjahan alias Riton, Kashem, Babul Sohel Mia alias Babu and Kamrul Islam. Police also recovered one pipe-gum, six rounds of ammunitions, two ramadas and one matchet from their possession.

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

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.

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 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.

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 rice 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 Enam 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 Abu Hossain were the special guests. The confer-

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: Nargarkanda 51,534, Sadar No. Satkhira 34,399, Char Bhadrason 12,095, Sadarpur 29,046, Altadanga 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.

College student commits suicide in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Apr 23: A college student of Kushtia site-kharkul 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 Boaliam 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.

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.

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

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