

News snaps

Progress of uplift work reviewed

NARSINGDI, Apr 24: A meeting of the district development co-ordination committee, Narsingdi was held on Sunday at the deputy commissioner's conference room, reports BSS.

Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner was in the chair. The meeting reviewed progress of development work in different sectors including agriculture, public health, family planning and education in different thanas of the district. District-level officers and Thana Nirbahi Officers were present in the meeting.

Minister visits flood affected areas

MYMENSINGH, Apr 24: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleq visited different cyclone-affected areas of Kishoreganj and Mymensingh districts during the last two days, reports BSS.

Pakundia, Bhaluka and Gaffargaon and their adjoining areas were badly affected by the recent cyclonic storms. The state minister directed the concerned officials to distribute government relief among the affected people and to prepare a list of the affected people. During his visit, the state minister talked to the affected people and assured them of all cooperation from the government.

Training course on health edn

COMILLA, Apr 24: A six-day training course on health education concluded on April 21 at the office of the Deputy Civil Surgeon, Comilla, reports BSS.

Forty-eight officers of health and education departments participated in the training course organised by the school health education project of the ministry of health and family welfare. The concluding function was presided over by Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr Mokhlesur Rahman, Project Director of the School Health Education Project Mosharraf Hossain distributed certificates among the participants.

Govt being deprived of revenue

NAOGAON, Apr 24: Government is being deprived of huge revenue as a vast tract of land in 16 northern districts remained under illegal occupation of some influential people, reports UNB.

According to an official source, of the total 75,245 acres of khas land, some 35,000 acres were given lease by the government and the rest 40,245 acres are occupied by illegal occupants. Most of these khas lands are arable lands. It is also learnt that out of the 3,670 government houses and shops, some 2,311 were given lease by the government and the rest 1,359 are under illegal occupation. The vested quarters have been earning a lot by grabbing these lands for years together. It is also alleged that some officials also occupied the khas land in fictitious names depriving government of revenue. According to local elite, revenue income and food production will increase if those government lands are recovered and given lease properly.

LGED takes up road development project

CHUADANGA, Apr 24: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has taken up a project for the development of 11-km Khargoda-Andulbaria road under Chuadanga district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

An LGED source said the project, taken up under the Rural Development Project-18 of LGED, will be completed in three phases. Financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) the project will be completed by the year 1999.

Fire Service Week opens

JAMALPUR, Apr 24: The Fire Service and Civil Defence Week '98 was inaugurated here at the fire station premises on Sunday, reports BSS.

The deputy commissioner and controller of fire service and civil defence Achyuta Pada Goswami inaugurated the week as the chief guest. Chairman, Jamalpur Municipality Fayezer Rahman was present as the special guest. Among others, Secretary, Jamalpur Press Club, Mustafa Babul and former Secretary of Jamalpur Press Club A A K Mahmudul Hasan spoke on the occasion. They stressed on creating more awareness among the people to keep the fire hazards at low level. They also urged upon the government for establishing more fire stations in the district.

Separate incidents claim 7 lives

FENI, Apr 24: Seven people died in separate incidents in the district during the last fortnight, police said, reports UNB.

According to police, on April 14, Suja Miah, 80, of Parshuram thana, on April 10, housewife Nasima Akhter, 27, of Shibpur in Sadar thana and on April 7, an unidentified woman, 35, of the same thana were killed by the miscreants. Two brothers — Mehedi, 20, and Sayde, 19, were killed in a road mishap on April 7. On the same day Jafar Ahmed, 32, of village Sharshadi was killed by an ox and on April 14, one Shankar Chandri, 19, of Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide. Separate cases were filed with the respective police stations.

924 pry students awarded scholarship

BARISAL, Apr 24: A total of 924 students from six southern districts under Barisal division have been awarded primary scholarship this year, reports BSS.

A total of 26,941 students took part in this examination held in December 1997 from the districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna. Of the total, 188 students have been awarded talent pool scholarships while the rest general scholarships. Forty-nine students have been awarded talent pool scholarship and 192 general grade scholarship in 10 thanas of Barisal district, 34 students talent pool scholarships and 108 students general grade scholarship in Pirojpur, 19 students talent pool scholarship and 74 students general grade scholarship in Jhalakathi, 21 students talent pool scholarship and 88 students general grade scholarships in Barguna, 35 students talent pool scholarship and 138 students general grade scholarships in Patuakhali and 30 students talent pool scholarship and 136 students general grade scholarship in Bhola districts.

Employees' quarters in bad shape

NOAKHALI, Apr 24: Most of two and three-storied quarters of third and fourth class government employees in the town here is in dilapidated condition causing suffering to the residents, reports UNB.

According to them they are living in the dormitories with their family members with utmost risk. The roofs and the walls of 20 buildings out of 40 which were built in 1960-62 have developed cracks for want of maintenance and repair work. Although the Public Works Department has declared these buildings unfit for use but some people are living there illegally. Moreover, most of unauthorised occupants are giving sub-let to others. Though the eviction programme of unauthorised occupants was taken long ago but it is yet to be implemented.

Training programme for UP chairmen

SATKHIRA, Apr 24: A three-day long training programme for the union parishad (UP) chairmen of the district will be held at the deputy commissioner's conference room on April 27-29, reports BSS.

Seventy-seven newly-elected union parishad chairmen of the district will participate in the training programme, an official source said.

Demonstration plots set up for Boro crops

NETRAKONA, Apr 24: A total of 65 demonstration plots for Boro crops have been set up in different areas of 10 thanas under Netrakona district in the current Boro season, reports BSS.

An official source said, the district agriculture extension department has set up the demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with modern method of cultivation. Earlier, the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) had supplied seed, fertilisers, insecticides and other agricultural equipment for the demonstration plots.

Lightning claims 2 persons

COMILLA, Apr 24: Two persons died by lightning in separate incidents in Burichang thana under Comilla district last week, reports BSS.

Local people said the victims Charu Miah, 60, of village Shikarpur and Abdul Kader, 32, of village Khodaituli were working in a rainstorm when they were struck by thunder-bolt. They died on the spot.

School teacher arrested

From Our Correspondent

BARGUNA, Apr 24: A school teacher was arrested here on Wednesday on charge of helping a student in adopting unfair means in the ongoing SSC examination. Police arrested Abul Kalam, a teacher of Parirkhal High School following the directive of a magistrate.

The magistrate ordered arrest of the teacher when he violated the magistrate's order to expel a student who was caught redhanded while adopting unfair means in the examination hall.

Three killed in road accidents in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Apr 24: Three persons including an old woman were killed and two others were injured in two separate road accidents recently.

Police sources said, two persons including an old woman were killed and two others were injured when a Jessore-bound truck ran over a crowd on Satkhira-Jessore road at Jhnowdanga Bazar recently.

One of the deceased was identified as Mohorijan Bibi, 65, wife of Gahar Ali of village Patharghata in sadar thana and the other, a mentally retarded person who could not be identified.

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

Another road accident occurred when a Khulna-bound micro bus from Satkhira knocked from behind of Ananda Mohon Das, 50, near Bhairab point on the Satkhira-Khulna Highway recently.

A case has been registered with Tala police station.

Nor'wester claims 2 in Pabna

PABNA, Apr 24: A severe norwester accompanied with hail storm lashed 24 villages in Bhangura thana on Monday killing two people and causing widespread damage to crops and property, reports UNB.

According to a delayed message, the storm killed two people and injured 50 others and damaged standing crops on 500 acres of land. The deceased were identified as Dulu, 5, and Rahima Khatun, 65, of Dillapasha union. The worst affected villages are Mondumala, Doharipara, Elelta, Madarbaria, Bittmoricha, Magura and Chaik Laximpur. Ninety per cent of the IRRI-Boro standing crops were completely damaged during the storm. Thana officials estimated that property worth about Tk 10 crore were damaged in the agriculture sector. Besides, some 200 thatched houses, 31 educational institutions and five other religious institutions were raged to the ground.

15 injured Clash over possession of khas pond

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 24: At least 15 persons were injured in a clash between supporters of Awami League and Jatiya Party at Durgapur Bazar area in Durgapur thana on Tuesday morning.

According to witnesses, the clash erupted as a sequel to a dispute over possession of a khas pond.

A group of Awami League supporters took the pond as lease for three years. After completion of the term, another group of Jatiya Party supporters got the lease of the pond this year. But Awami League supporters did not withdraw from the pond, Jatiya Party supporters on Tuesday went to take possession of the pond. A clash ensued when Awami League supporters resisted them.

Five seriously bullet-hit persons were admitted into Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and Durgapur thana health complex.

They are: Mojaffar Hossain, 28, Mofjuddin, 36, Rabin Hannan and Rasul. They are Jatiya Party supporters.

When contacted, Durgapur thana acknowledged the incident, but no case was filed till writing of this report.

OMS of rice going on in C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, Apr 24: Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice has been going on in full swing in Chapai Nawabganj.

Buyers are found purchasing rice in long lines in every OMS centre especially in the town areas.

From February 29 to April 11, about 900 metric tons of rice have been sold under OMS programmes here.

According to the District Food Controller's office sources, a total of 106 dealers have been appointed. Eight dealers have been appointed in Nawabganj Pourashava area and 26 dealers in 13 unions of the thana, 4 dealers in Shibganj Pourashava area and 30 dealers in 15 unions of Shibganj thana, 2 in Bholahat thana headquarters and 8 in its 4 unions, 2 in Nachole thana headquarters and 6 in 3 unions of the thana, 4 in Rahanpur Pourashava area and 16 in 8 unions of Gomostapur thana.

Each of the dealers sell 1 metric ton of rice everyday.

Although the market price of rice remains stable at a rate from 13.50 taka to 14.50 taka as per quality, it does not come down to a normal price of Taka 8 to 9 per kg.

Hundreds of tons of rice are being imported everyday through Son Masjid LC Station from India. But the price of rice has not got come down.

According to concerned sources, from December 1997 to April 10, 97 thousand 5 hundred 18 tons of rice has been imported from India through Son Masjid LC Station only. A responsible officer of Chapai Nawabganj Food Office said the stock of food in LSD godowns of the district is satisfactory.



RAJSHAHI, UNIVERSITY: Lutfar Rahman Sarker, Governor of Bangladesh Bank addressing as the chief guest at an international seminar titled 'Recent Trends of Economic Reforms in SAARC Region' organised recently jointly by the Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) of the university and International Institute of Development Studies of Calcutta. Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque and Pro-Vice Chancellor Syeedur Rahman Khan are seen sitting on the dais. — Star photo

Mango production may fall short of target this year

NATORE, Apr 24: Production target of the mango in greater Rajshahi district this year may suffer a setback, reports UNB.

According to experts, the target of production may be declined by 50 per cent due to abnormal fluctuations of temperature, irregular and untimely rainfall, severe nor wester, fog, pest attack and late budding.

According to official sources, the target of the mango production has been fixed at 75,000 metric tons in the four districts of greater Rajshahi including Natore, country's quality and quantity mango producing zone, as against 130,000 metric tons in the whole country.

Abnormal fluctuation of temperature, fog and off the rain are bound to effect the production of mango to a great extent, they said.

The experts said normal temperature for budding and blossoming of mango is 20 to 27 degree Celsius. But the day temperature during the budding period of mango here remained far below. As a result, no budding of mango occurred on schedule time and dense fog caused further delay.

The off time rainfall just before budding in November-December caused vegetative growth of tree. Even the rainfall in mid-February to mid-March caused heavy damage to the mango sprouts as pest attacks increased by rain and cloudy weather.

An Agronomist of the Rajshahi Fruit Research Institute said this year is known as the off year for mango production because the country witnessed a bumper production of mango last year.

He apprehended that, mango production in greater Rajshahi may drastically fall and come down as low as 20,000 metric tons this year.

Use of substandard quality of Indian pesticides and insecticides on the trees after the budding caused a damage to mango buds, he further added.

Due to absence of government patronisation and proper research, the production of mango in greater Rajshahi is declining gradually, local people said.

100-line telephone exchange opens at Belabo

NARSINGDI, Apr 24: A 100-line Central Button (CB) telephone exchange was inaugurated at Belabo thana in the district on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Noor Uddin Khan opened the exchange by making a phone call to Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim in Dhaka.

The exchange has been set up at a cost of Tk 14.5 lakh.

In Chandpur

Current nets worth Tk 15 lakh seized, burnt by mobile courts

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Apr 24: About three hundred current nets worth Taka 15 lakh were seized by mobile courts from Haimchar to Shaitnal under Matlab thana on the rivers Meghna and Padma.

According to Chandpur District Fisheries Office sources mobile courts headed by magistrates Md Nasiruddin Mia and Jahangir Alam raided the abovementioned area to check fishing of fries.

Mobile courts are active in the area for last one month. Mobile courts are also functioning in different hats and bazars.

So far three fishermen were arrested while fishing hilsha fries at Haimchar area in the Meghna.

The fishermen are Abdul Hamid (30), Abdul Malik, 40, and Bilal Hossain, (25). Everyday mobile courts seize current nets. Those are set on fire on the bank of the rivers afterwards. Hilsha fries measuring 4 cm to 15 cm called 'jhatka' are available in the Meghna and the Padma.

According to Fisheries Department, two major nursery grounds have been detected. The largest one is in Chandpur.

The locations have been detected between Shaitnal to Hazimara in the river Meghna and the other one is situated at Kuakata under Patuakhali district. Jhatka grazes in fresh water of the rivers Meghna and Padma for five to six months. After the period they migrate to sea area. During grazing period they are caught by fishermen. In the above areas jhatkas are caught by fishermen.

The main season of fishing Jhatka begins from January to April. The average total catch of jhatka is estimated to be about four thousand tons in a year.

If 30 per cent of jhatka can be protected annually, an additional production of hilsha worth about Tk 500 crore can be obtained.

Despite government ban fishing of jhatka is being continued in different water bodies in Chandpur district.

Massive Aus farming programme in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Apr 24: The district Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a massive programme to cultivate Aus paddy on 79,400 hectares of land in eight thanas of the district with a production target of 78096 metric tons of yields.

Thana-wise break up is as follows: 6602 hectares of land will be cultivated in sadar thana with production target of 5936 metric tons of paddy, 4038 hectares in Char Bhadrason with a production target of 2773 metric tons, 6770 hectares in Nagarkanda with a production target of 9412 metric tons, 5536 hectares in Sadarpur with a production target of 5131 metric tons, 9844 hectares in Bhangra with a production target of 3489 metric tons, 4201 hectares in Madhukhal with a production target of 4038 metric tons, 6124 hectares in

Boalmari with a production target of 5510 metric tons and 3098 hectares in Alifadanga with a production target of 3911 metric tons.

Worker dies as jute bale falls on him

KHULNA, Apr 24: A jute mill worker died when a jute bale fell on him here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said a heavy jute bale fell on Abdur Razzak, 40, of Sonali Jute Mills while he was working at the finishing section. He died on the spot.

The body has been sent to his home at Milekul village in Digholla thana.

Int'l symposium in Natore Stroke 3rd common cause of death in third world

NATORE, Apr 24: Stroke is a cerebral vascular disorder which is the third common cause of death in the developing world and as much as 80 to 85 per cent of strokes are due to cerebral infarction and 15 to 20 per cent are caused by haemorrhage, reports UNB.

This was stated by experts in an international symposium on 'Stroke Prevention and Its Management' jointly organised by Community Stroke Foundation and District Administration at Zila Parishad auditorium here on Saturday.

Risk factors of stroke detected are cigarette smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol level in the blood, excess alcohol intake, positive family history, oral contraceptives and trauma.

Young people occasionally sustain a stroke because of trauma of blood vessels of brain, the experts said.

President of CSF Prof Dr Anisul Haque said their strategies are provisions of proper management, promotion and preventive intervention, development of awareness in the community, development and adoption of community care approach, upgrading of knowledge and skill through research and training and contribution in building natural capacity for stroke management and development and livelihood project for disabled using local resources.

The symposium was formally inaugurated by Director General of Administration of PM Office M Mominullah Patwary.

Chaired by District Civil Surgeon M Jahangir Hossain, the symposium was addressed, among others, by Australian experts Dr David Lien, Dr Ms Bade Fuller, Prof Dr Moniruz-zaman of Dhaka Disabled Hospital and Head of the Neuro-medicine Department of Bangladesh Medical University (PG Hospital).



MAGURA: Newly elected chairmen and members taking oath from the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Magura at Sripur Thana Parishad auditorium at a function held here recently. — Star photo

Teacher-student relationship worsens at IU

KUSHTIA, Apr 24: The teacher-student relationship is being deteriorated following several untoward incidents on the Islamic University (IU) campus in the last few days, reports UNB.

The incidents triggered following the stringent measures taken to check unfair means in the examinations.

About 50 students along with some political activists under the banner of 'Students of English Department', violating the prohibition of political activities in the campus brought out a procession demanding the removal of M Rezaul Huq, a teacher of English department

School student beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 24: Liton, a student of class ten was brutally killed by his lover's family members.

The incident happened on April 6 at village Mrittikapara under Ujangan union.

Local people said, Liton son of Rustum Ali had a love affair with Swapna, daughter of Akubbar of the same village for a long time. When the family members of Swapna came to know this and warned Liton for the consequence. But Liton did not care about the warning and went to meet Swapna. He family members then caught hold Liton and beat severely. As a result he died.

His body was later taken to a field and was left there.

The next day police recovered the body and sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

A guardian of Liton Majedur Rahman has filed a murder case with Kushtia police station.

Local people have demanded a proper investigation and punishment to the culprits.

Erratic power supply makes life miserable

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 24: Erratic power supply has been causing immense sufferings to common people in the district.

A large number of small and medium industries of different areas are facing a serious setback. Hundred of mills and factories of BSCIC industrial area, Jagat Bazar, Tan Bazar, Railway Road and other areas, textile mills, 11 cinema halls have been incurring heavy loss due to erratic power supply.

During this dry season, irrigation system with some electric motors are disrupted as deep tubewells and shallow tubewells are facing serious crises of electricity.

Some ice producing factories have been incurring losses.

Meanwhile, electrical goods like fridges, TVs, VCRs, irons bulbs and other electrical accessories, are being damaged due to fluctuation of voltage.

Sometimes power failure continues for hours together.

Jamalpur Bar Assoc executives

JAMALPUR, Apr 24: Advocate Matiar Rahman Talukder and Advocate Sarwar Jahan were elected unanimously as president and secretary of Jamalpur Bar Association, according to association sources, reports BSS.

The other office-bearers elected are Vice-Presidents — Ziaul Huq and Md Jinnat Ali, Asst Secretaries — Md Ismail Hussain (I) and Md Mahfuzur Rahman, Literary and Library Secretary — Md Khawja Alam, Sports and Cultural Secretary — Javed Ali, Auditor — Md Asadullah.

Seven commit suicide at Natore in a month

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Apr 24: At least seven persons including six women committed suicide in first three weeks of this month in the district.

Five attempts of suicide were foiled during the period.

On April 19, a day labourer named Azad, 30, son of Abdul Aziz of Mollikhati area in the town committed suicide by taking poison over a family feud.

On the same day, Piyara Begum, 16, of Amitagachi area in the town committed suicide by hanging. The cause of the suicide could not be known.

Two attempts of suicide by Shajahan of Shibpur Amhati area of Chhatui union and Nurzahah Begum of Ahmedpur at Boraigram thana respectively were foiled on the same day.

On April 16, Happy Begum, 23, wife of Afzal of village Krishnapur under sadar thana, committed suicide by taking poison following a dispute with her husband.

On April 13, Chan Nahar, wife of Abdur Rahman of village Dastanabad of Kufuria union parishad committed suicide by taking poison.

Bilkis Begum of sadar thana, Shamima Akhter, wife of Ohidur Rahman of village Ramsa Kagipur and Fatema Begum of village Maghram committed suicide by taking poison on April 7, 8 and 10 respectively.

Another three attempts of suicide were foiled on April 1.

Unnatural death cases were filed with the concerned police stations.