

## News snaps

## Rivals clashes leave 20 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 6: More than 20 people were injured, five critically, in a series of clashes between rival groups of boatmen at Andangia in Ullapara thana today (Sunday), reports UNB.

Of the injured Adhir, 30, Bindabari, 50, Nirjan, 25, Madhab, 10, and Dulal, 32, were admitted to Sadar Hospital with severe wounds. Police said the two groups of boatmen led by Adhir and Nirjan engaged in clash at about 11:30 am over the ownership of a spell. Later, both of them being organised attacked each other with lethal weapons and stick, which left 26 people injured. Of them, five critically wounded were chopped.

## Electric tower collapsed

CHANDPUR, Apr 6: A 33-KV electric tower at Gunrajdi village in the outskirts of the town collapsed by the erosion of river Dakatia on Sunday disconnecting power in six thanas, reports UNB.

Entire areas of Hajiganj, Kochua and Shahristi thana and some portions of Sadar, Matlab and Faridganj thanas plunged into darkness after the incident. Villagers said the tower went into the riverbed with a big bang at 4:05 pm. Bangladesh Power Development Board handed over the 20-km electric line to Hajiganj Palli Biddu Samity on October 7. But river erosion affected the tower on the line much ago. Although the matter was brought to the notice of the authorities, they remained silent mysteriously. Officials and engineers of the PBS visited the spot but the line has yet to be restored.

## Sick animals being slaughtered

KURIGRAM, Apr 6: Meat dealers of nine thanas including Kurigram pourasava, are slaughtering sick animals at different hat-bazars defying the government ban, reports UNB.

Local people said the meat dealers are slaughtering animals without any test by the vets as the authorities concerned have been showing indifference to the matter since long. It is learnt that animals, including cows, goats and buffaloes are indiscriminately slaughtered here and there by meat-dealers everyday instead of a four-day per week fixed by the government. Meats are being sold even in unhygienic places as there is no slaughtering place in the poura area. Local people also complained that meat dealers are slaughtering sick animals in absence of the routine check by the officials concerned.

## Drug trafficking increases

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 6: Drug trafficking in northern region, including Sirajganj district, has increased alarmingly causing concern among the peace-loving people, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that the drug traffickers have developed a strong network with the collaboration of some dishonest men of the law-enforcing agencies in the border areas. Thousands of youths of the region are addicted to various drugs, including wine, hashish, pathadrin and phenisidyl. The traffickers under the patronisation of some influential people are engaged in smuggling the drugs into the country through different routes.

## Law &amp; order reviewed

BHERAMARA, Apr 6: The monthly review meeting of the Kushtia district administration for the month of March was held at the conference room of Deputy Commissioner recently, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Md Abdus Salam. Matters relating to law and order in the district were discussed in the meeting.

## Sanction for road construction

MEHERPUR, Apr 6: The Roads and Highways Department has sanctioned Tk 55 lakh for reconstruction of three roads in the district, reports BSS.

According to the Executive Engineer, Roads and Highways funds will be spent for reconstruction of Meherpur-Chuadanga Road, Meherpur-Kushtia Road and Meherpur-Gangni Road. The work will be completed by June, he added.

## Production target of sugar

CHUADANGA, Apr 6: Darsana Sugar Mills under Chuadanga district has produced 10,800 tonnes of sugar till March 15 in 130 days by crushing 1,46,000 tonnes of sugarcane, reports BSS.

According to mills management sources, the mills fixed up a target to produce 14,400 tonnes of sugar by crushing 16,000 tonnes of sugarcane in the current cane crushing season. The sources further said that the production in the mills of the current season will be continued till first week of the current month.

## Oath taking ceremony

HABIGANJ, Apr 6: The oath taking ceremony of newly-elected chairman and commissioners of Nabiganj pourashabha was held at Nabiganj thana parishad auditorium recently, reports BSS.

Dewan Farid Gazi, MP, and chairman of the national committee for industrial affairs attended the ceremony as the chief guest, while Ahmed Fazlur Rashid, Deputy Commissioner, Habiganj and Musfiq Hussain Chowdhury, Secretary district Awami League were the special guests. Presided over by Nazrul Islam, TMO Nabiganj the ceremony was addressed, among others, by Abdul Matin Chowdhury, president Nabiganj thana Awami League and Sayed Matiur Rahman president thana BNP.

## College teacher killed

THAKURGAON, Apr 6: A college teacher was killed and another person was injured seriously in an accident on Dinajpur-Thakurgaon highway recently, reports BSS.

According to local sources, Azizul Islam, 35, a lecturer of Dhurkhari College in Birol thana of Dinajpur district and his companion Enamul Haque, 35, were coming from Dinajpur to Thakurgaon on a motorcycle. Suddenly an unlicensed tractor hit the motorcycle in front of Palli Biddu Office near Thakurgaon town causing instantaneous death of Azizul Islam and injuring Enamul Haque seriously who was sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for treatment.

## 341 schemes under TR programme

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 6: District relief and disaster-management department has taken up 341 schemes with an allocation of 5,575 tonnes of wheat under Test Relief (TR) programmes in the current dry season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the schemes included development of different educational institutions, repairing of roads and earth work on playgrounds. The schemes will generate employment opportunities to a large number of male and female workers especially of the rural areas.

## All-party public meeting held

FENI, Apr 6: An all-party public meeting was held here on April 3 at Dharmapur High School madaan in Phulgazi thana here, reports BSS.

The meeting was arranged to resist terrorist activities, extortion and mugging. Joynal Abedin Hazari, MP, and member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sports, was the chief guest at the meeting, presided over by Dr Abbas Ahmed. The chief guest said his efforts to resist terrorist activities, extortion and mugging will continue. He sought cooperation of all in this respect.

## Meeting of Dashmina BCE

PATUAKHALI, Apr 6: State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahanir Hussain has said the present government is determined to implement the ideals and spirit of the Liberation War to build the country as 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Bangabandhu, reports BSS.

Addressing as chief guest a meeting of Dashmina Chhatra League and Juba League at the local college field on April 3 the state minister called upon the youths to learn the real history of Liberation War to make Bangladesh an exploitation-free and prosperous state. The state minister said the government has taken all out measures to curb terrorism and ensure overall welfare of the people. He urged the AL leaders and workers to work for strengthening the party base at grassroots level.

## Clash leaves girl child dead

SHERPUR, Apr 6: A girl child was killed and three other members of a family were injured in a clash over demarcation of land at Beparipara in the town here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Anwar and his men attacked neighbour Afzal following an altercation over the demarcation and injured him, his wife and two daughters seriously. They were rushed to the Sadar Hospital where one year old Asa succumbed at midnight.

## Farmer's daughter trafficked to India

RAJSHAHI, Apr 6: A poor farmer of Natore district alleged that women traffickers took away his teenage daughter to India in the name of giving her a lucrative job in the town, reports UNB.

Speaking to the journalists at the press club here, Babar Ali of Bagatpara thana also demanded trial of the accused. He said Taslimuddin of Paka village of the same thana along with Hayat Ali of Kandaguchi village in Puthia thana allured his 15-year-old daughter Khodeja Khatun in the name of providing work at a residential house in Rajshahi town on March 17, 1998.



JHENIDAH: Boro cultivation is threatened here due to ongoing drought. Photo shows a Boro field with many cracks near Jhenidah Cadet College. The cracks have been developed due to lack of water. — Star photo by Delwar Kabir

## Reign of terror prevails in Kushtia, Jessore

By Staff Correspondent

A reign of terror has been prevailing in Kushtia and Jessore now.

**Our Kushtia Correspondent says:** Incidents of snatching, hijacking, dacoity, stabbing and killing are day to day affairs here.

People have lost faith in police force as they failed to curb the criminal activities and failed to arrest the notorious killers, miscreants and extortionists. Some killers and terrorists are allegedly moving freely, but police do not arrest them on time. Resentment and discontent against the police force have been sown in the minds of the people.

Several murders were committed in the town during the last couple of weeks, but police were not active to nab the accused, especially the killers for reasons best known to them.

Three persons were killed in three separate incidents in the last few days. Abul Kalam, 23, a degree examinee, son of Hossain Ali of village Gopalpur in Sadar thana was hacked to death by his rivals on April 1.

Amirul Islam, 23, son of Sirajul Islam of village Boruichara in Khoksa thana was seriously injured in a clash by his rivals. He was admitted in Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. Police said that he had been strangled to death by his rivals.

Several murders were committed from Chanda on April 3. The victim was a degree examinee, son of Kafiluddin of village Paschim Abdalpur in Sadar thana had been missing for the last eight days. The recovered body has been identified by the local people as Khosru. Police sent the body to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. Police said that he had been strangled to death by his rivals on April 1.

Amjad alias Dhepa, 35, a terrorist of Daulatpur thana was killed when his own bomb exploded in his hand at his village home Andala on March 31. The victim abducted Mahbub of village Shalapur. He was rescued by police. Police also recovered one pistol from the house where Mahbub was kept confined.

All the bodies were sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

In another incident, a gang of armed terrorists forced their entry into the house of Nur Islam alias Dhepa, 35, a terrorist of Daulatpur thana who was killed when his own bomb exploded in his hand at his village home Andala on March 31. The victim abducted Mahbub of village Shalapur. He was rescued by police. Police also recovered one pistol from the house where Mahbub was kept confined.

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