## Water crisis in Barisal

BARISAL, Apr 2: The people of Barisal Municipality have been facing acute water crisis as one-third quantity water of the total demand is being supplied here in this municipality now, reports BSS.

source, at least 80 lakh gallons thority is able to supply only 25 Road and one at Nazir Mahalday leaving the demand of 50 order for a long time.

lowing the use of this water, the people have been attacked with different water-born diseases.

A total of 24 deep tubewells were installed in this municipality for the production of water which is being supplied According to a reliable up in the municipality areas. Of the total, seven tubewells, one of water is required every day at Bagura Road, one at Shitahere for about 4 lakh people of lakhola, one at Nooria School this municipality, but the au- one at SWA-Road, one at Line to 309 lakh gallons of water per lah have been remaining out of

lakh gallons of water more per day. As a result, the people of of water of the each of the rethe municipality have been maining 17 tubewells is from 5 consuming water from tanks, to 10 gallons. The municipality khals and personal tubewells authority has taken up a scheme to install four tubewells drinking water without going in the municipality areas. Of for any test of this water. Fol- them, two tubewells are being

installed with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) while the rest with the assistance of the Public Health Engineering Depart-

One tubewell will be sunk at Charbari, Kaunia, New Port Road and Shitalakhola in the first phase while three other tubewells are expected to be installed within three years next.

There are seven over head tanks, five new and two old, in the municipality areas, the carrying capacity of each of the five overhead tanks is 2.20 lakh gallons only, while the capacity of the olds is two lakh gallons.

The municipality authority has demanded that their supplied water is pure and free from arsenic contamination.

Madhumati, Kumar face siltation

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Apr 2: Launch services in Dhaka-Khulna and Barisal-Khulna river routes via Gopalganj, Takerhat and Mol- Kalia, Mahjan, Bordia, Jogalarhat remain suspended due to nia, Phahar Dauga and Chapil siltation in the rivers Madhu- in Narail district; and Udmati, Kumar and Ghagor.

vices in Dhaka-Khulna route larhat thana of Bagerhat disvia Gopalganj and Takerhat trict use these river routes. and Barisal-Khulna route via Mollarhat and Gopalganj have remained suspended for months together.

Even small boats cannot ply smoothly because of abnormal fall in water levels in the rivers. Lack of dredging has aggravated the situation.

Shoals have emerged in many points in the rivers Madhumati, Kumar, Ghagar and Madaripur Beel Route channel

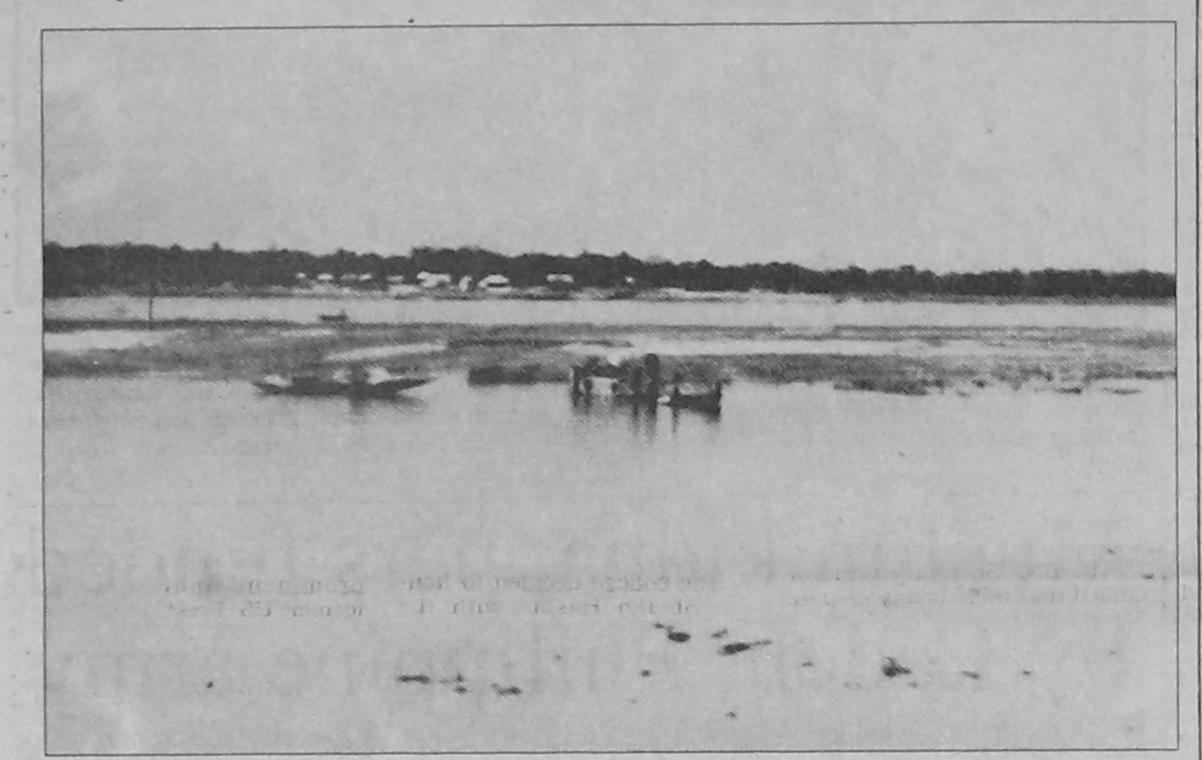
Thousands of people in-Gazirhat of Khulna district; daipur, Fahalpur, Bohaijaki, Local people said the ser- Garfa and Charkalia in Mol-

> When contacted executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), Gopalgani said the office has already submitted a Taka three crore proposal to the higher authorities to solve the problem.

Water levels have marked abnormal fall at Jogania Bazar point in the Kumar river. Old Manikdhah near Chapil Kheya Ghat in the Madhumati river and Char Gopalpur in the Ghagor river.

According to Water Development Board, about 15 feet layer of silt was deposited in the bed of the Madhumati river at Chapai, 12 feet layer in the Kumar at Jogania. 10 feet layer in the Madaripur Beel Rout channel at Old Hariduspur and 10 feet layer in the Ghagor river at

Meanwhile, in the absence of regular launch services country-made mechanised boats have become the main mode of transport for carrying passengers and goods. At present, over one hundred mechanised boats have been plying in the routes. But local people said journey by mechanised boats is risky as the boatmen are not skilled.



Many shoals have emerged in the River Madhumati hampering riverine communication in Star photo by Alimuzzaman Miah Gopalganj district.

allegiance to Pakistan.

But young officer Lieutenant

Ali revolted and killed Major

Rafique with his troops took

position in Palashbari Model

cent to the highway. A group of

pur Cantonment rushed to the

spot and attacked the freedom

fighters. Lt Rafique launched

counter attack. The battle

lasted for three hours. Two

freedom fighters embraced

martyrdom on the spot. How-

ever, Lt Rafique was detained by

Lt Rafique was the resident

of village Narinda under Pabna

Diarrhoea,

### A red-letter day for Palashbari people

From K M Rezaul Haque

GAIBANDHA. Apr 2: March fused to help and expressed his 31, 1971 is a red-letter day for the people of Palashbari thana in the district. On the day brave Rafique and Havilder Monsur freedom fighters built first armed resistance against the Pakistani occupation forces.

In the battle three freedom fighters embraced martyrdom. while over 20 enemy soldiers were killed.

However, Palashbari Sangram Committee was formed to resist the Pakistani soldiers much earlier. The members of Primary School premises adjathe committee in collaboration with local people put up barri- Pakistani soldiers from Rangcades on Rangpur-Bogra highway. On March 27 a contingent of Pakistan Army faced barricades at Kalibari Bazar under Palashbari thana as the contingent was passing the highway. Angry soldiers opened indiscriminate fire on the locality. In the incident, one Abdul the enemy soldiers. They later Mannan was shot dead and nearly hundred others were in-

After the incident, leaders of district. Sangram Committee met Bengali soldiers in Bengal regiment camp on the bank of the river Karotoa, five miles off Palashbari thana headquarters. The leaders sought help and co-operation from them. But the commanding officer of that camp. Major Nizamuddin, re-

### Step to check overloading in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Apr 2: An overloading control room was opened at Shahebganj point here on Dhaka-Bogra highway recently.

The home minister gave permission to Sirajganj District Truck Workers' to open the control room. The union in collaboration with the district worst victims, they added. administration opened it with a view to controlling accidents. protecting destruction of roads, protecting damage of vehicles many of which were purchased from the foreign countries.

Sirajganj District Truck Labourers' Union General Secretary Sohrab Ali said that from now in all vehicles would to scarcity of pure drinking wa ply according to control room ter and consumption of adulrules.

### Mystery over death of housewife in Sirajganj From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 2: A beautiful housewife was allegedly murdered on March 20 at village Diardhangare under Sirajganj Sadar thana.

It is learnt that the 25-year -old victim Rubi Khatun's elder Later Lieutenant Rafique shifted the camp to Palashbari brother -in- law Ajgor, younger FU Club ground, now Shaheed brother- in- law Ismail and the Miner premise, and took the son of Ajgor, Murad fled away leadership of freedom fighters. after this murder. On March 31, 1971 Lt

A case was lodged with Siraiganj Sadar thana by the victim's daughter Jamela Khatun on March 23. But the dead body was buried without autopsy.

According to local villagers, the incident took place on the fateful day following a family feud. Insaf Ali, the victim's husband was serving in Saudi Arabia for the last seven or eight years. Her husband sent her a big amount of money a few days ago. The feud took a serious turn over the money. The villagers apprehended that after murdering her she was shown hung. Some eye-witnesses found so many injuries all over her body. But her inlaws allegedly buried the victim terming it as suicide.

Police sources said, the body might have to be exhumed in presence of a magistrate.

Nazmul Hassan Rana and

Rasedul Hasan Ranjan, JCD

district unit president and gen-

eral secretary respectively.

among others, were present on

On the other, a faction of the

district JCD, led by Saidur

Rahman Bachchu and Safiul

Alam Dollar staged separate

hunger strike in Bazar Station

the occasion. The strike con-

tinued from 8am to 6pm.

#### viral fever spreading fast in Kushtia JCD stages hunger strike

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Apr 2: Diarrhoea and viral fever have been in Sirajganj spreading alarmingly in different parts of the district. From Our Correspondent

About 10,000 people have been attacked by the diseases in SIRAJGANJ. Apr 2: Main opposition BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) the rural areas during the last one month. According to the physicians, the symptoms of staged token hunger strike here viral fever is high temperature, in the Shaheed Minar premises body pain and headache. The on Tuesday demanding immepatients become very weak as diate release of JCD central unit there is on curative medicine President Habibunnabi Sohel, for this fever, doctors said General Secretary Nasiruddin Children and women are the Ahmed Pintu and activists.

Meanwhile, a large number of patients with stomach ailments and other gastrointestinal diseases are pouring in the hospitals. But in absence of adequate supply of medicines in the health complexes they are facing a lot of problems. Local doctors attributed the outbreak terated foodstuff.

# Char Gopalpur.



Golden crops Harvesting of wheat has been going on in full swing throughout Magura district now. Photo shows farmers of village Jakerertack in the Sadar thana are busy in harvesting their hard earned crops. Star photo

## Launch services suspended Barind area turns into attractive tourist spots

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr landless people from other developing government khas land in Barind area for useful purpose. But the area has now turned into attractive tourist spots with panoramic beauty surrounded by hillocks and fountain, reports UNB.

Some 3.5-square-mile area of Barind Bhumi, barely 6 km off the town, has been developed to an attractive spot for the

has added the scenic beauty attracting lot of tourists

crated by the Barind authority

2: Once people hardly thought of parts of the country rehabilitat- ernment can earn revenue by ing here. People lost homes and hearth by river erosion are constructing thatched and mud houses creating sanitary problems in the area. They are cutting trees to meet their fuel

Officials said saplings of different kinds of trees were planted in barren lands under the afforestation programme on experimental basis since 1989. Some 1.62 lakh trees were Besides, the manmade forest planted till 1993.

Mehogoni, Arjun, Shishu, Ipil, Akashmoni Bononeem, Segun trees have grown on the But the beauty of the places hillocks. Besides, tomato is beis gradually fading away with ing cultivated on the plains.

Experts view that the govestablishing picnic spots, tourism centre and sanctuary for birds by fencing the area.

Informed sources said plantation of trees has been stopped in 1993 when a group of greedy people in connivance with officials of the revenue department grabbed government khas land and the forest.

Lack of coordination between the Barind Authority and Revenue Department led to the loss of valuable lands. Illegal occupants should be evicted from the area for proper and useful development of the Barind Bhumi, said an official.

### Tk 10 cr land development tax unrealised in Moulvi Bazar

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVI BAZAR, Apr 2: Land development tax worth Taka 10 three crore 95 lakh 48 thousand per cent against the target crore remained unrealised from 618 remained due in tea gardens which was achieved till Jandifferent organisations and in- and Taka one crore 8 lakh 66 uary 5 this year. It was 38.20 per dividuals here.

Of the total, 54 percent re- other sectors. mained due in different government, semi-governmet and the target remained very hopeautonomous organisations, 36 per cent remained unrealised from different tea garden owners and the rest 10 per cent due in other sectors including individuals, this was disclosed by the District Revenue Depart-

lakh 77 thousand 420 remained year. unrealised with government, semi-government and au- from othe sectors including in- organisations.

thanas. During the period Taka thousand 128 remained due in cent in the last year.

0.34 percent against the tar- response from the taxpayers. geted figure was collected from government, semi-government and autonomous organisations till January last. It was 1.12 percent in the same period of Till January 5 this year an from the tea gardens is 0.77 per

The land tax collection rate

tonomous organisations in six dividual land owners is comparatively good. This is 41.50

It was learnt from some The collection rate against Tahsilders (Land tax collectors), they were working at field less. Official sources said only level and they found very poor

They also added that the Revenue Department had been creating pressure on individuals or small organisations like last year. The collection rate schools and colleges. But there was no specific guidelines to amount of Taka five crore 88 cent. It was 2.79 per cent in last collect the huge amount of land tax from government, semigovernment and autonomous

country where another female

block supervisor may help raise

farm and homestead produc-

Institutional support, expo

supports to women farmers.

sures to the modern methods.

marketing facilities and essen-

tial information are important

to increase and diversify home

tural production, women grow-

ers need to have access to train

ing opportunity to acquire

knowledge about the farming.

limited efforts, non-govern-

ment development agencies

working in this field may pro-

vide such training opportuni-

ties to female farmers of the

Rural women grow radish,

In order to increase agricul-

Besides the government's

stead production by women.

### Female farmers should have access to training opportunity

rural areas are performing a wide range of activities related ture. to farm and homestead production and their participation is increasing day by day, reports

farms consist of two systems one related to the farm produc- tion. tion and other to homestead production.

in public domain, produces food grains while the home based system of agriculture is located in individual home sphere

where dominates the women. Thus women, particularly in rural areas have been playing a vital role in agriculture by involving themselves in the production process.

About 75 per cent post-harvest processing of major crops is also done traditionally by

women As the homestead agriculture provides essential nutrition to the households, female growers involved in homestead farming need to be given necessary technical training and institutional support for raising the production and standard of

performance. Raising of production and UNB. performance is essentials to the rapid growth and development not only of agriculture sector but also the economy as a

whole. No doubt, the horticulture longed to Awami League. development projects, financed in this regard in Bangladesh passed away on February 16.

NATORE, Apr 2: Women in through 14 horticulture centers under the ministry of agricul-

Natore Horticulture Centre tion by providing technical (NHC) started providing the interested women of 22 selected villages with basic and techni-The traditional agricultural cal training on homestead gardening and agriculture produc-

Female Block Supervisors (field level agriculture worker) The farm agriculture located may be recruited for imparting latest methods to the women related to agriculture directly or indirectly at the grass root level in an easy and acceptable man-

> At present at least two-block supervisors of the Agriculture Extension Department are working in each union in the

### Byelection campaign in Gopalganj

GOPALGANJ, Apr 2 : Campaign for byelection to chairman of Barni Union Parisad under Tungipara thana got momentum with the participation of four candidates, reports

Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, Khalid Hossain, Fayek Miah and Sajedur Rahman are in the vote race scheduled for April 10. Sheikh Toyebur Rahman be-

cauliflower, cabbage, leafy vegetables, kakrole, pumpking, cucumber, bean, water chestnut, pole bean lady's finger, tomato, papaw, banana, guava lemon along with other crops, fruits, vegetables and spices in their

remote areas in groups.

homestead.

Women contribution in production of vegetables, fruits and other homestead varieties including crop processing, tree plantation, small scale pisciculture, poultry raising and cattle rearing are often underestimated although it add sub-The post fell vacant on the stantially to the family income by ADB, have played a vital role death of Nurul Islam who and nutrition of the family

### Road accidents up in C'nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 2: The number of road accidents has increased here due to various reasons, reports UNB.

The main cause behind the accidents is plying of vehicles without fitness certificate, irregularity by the authorities for giving driving licence and increase of plying vehicles on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway after introduction of

Sona-Masjid LC station. According to various sources at least five people were killed and 25 others injured in 20 separate road accidents during last

A motorcyclist, identified as road, succumbed to his injuries Yusuf Ali, was crushed under the wheels of a truck on Chowdala-Gomastapur road on March 4. Two motorcyclists, identi-

fied as Nazrul Islam, 35, and

Abdul Mannan, 40, were critically injured when a truck knocked down them on Shibganj-Kanshat road on January

boy was crushed under the aged about 50, was killed in a wheels of a truck in Nachol road mishap at Kalabari area thana on January 15. At least 13 people were in-

PDB office while giving passage to another bus on the following February 10. A youth, injured in an acci-

Hospital on January 17. A head-on collision between two trucks on Shobganj-Sona Masjid road left three people in-

jured critically on January 28.

A boy, Hossain, 5, was injured in an accident at Mararsha area in Gomastapur thana Apart from this, a teenage on February 4 and an old man, on the following day.

They were identified as Islam,

29, Maleque, 22, and Jamal, 20.

A car driver, Kalam, 30, was jured in an accident when a Ra- critically injured when a truck hanpur-bound bus fell into a rammed into a private car at ditch in front of Nawabganj Nawabganj-Rajshahi highway at Rajarampur-crossing on

Besides, a passerby identified as Latifur Rahman, 40, was dent on Nawabganj-Shibganj critically injured when a truck at Rajshahi Medical College carrying stone knocked him down on the Bishwa road on February 19.

Two motorcyclists Taifur, 26, and Samad, 35; were injured in an accident on the same day.

# News smaps

### Rabindra Sangeet confce in Tangail

TANGAIL. Apr 2: A three-day programme on 'National Rabindra Sangeet Conference' was inaugurated on March 30 at Shahid Smrity Municipal Uddyan by M Imdad Hossain, a warrior of language movement, reports BSS.

National Professor Kabir Choudhury presided over the opening function where Prof Anupam Sen presented the main article on 'Glory of Bangalee, Glory of Bangla'. Zaheda Ahmed, Jatin Sarker, Lalim Hoque and Abu Sayeed Bhuiyan were the discussants on the occasion. The three-day function is being participated by Indian and Bangladeshi artistes.

#### 89 community clinics to be set up

FENI. Apr 2: A total of 89 community clinics will be set up in different remotest areas of the five thanas here, reports BSS. According to an official source, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sanctioned Taka one crore seventy-eight lakh for this purpose under Health and Population Control Programme. The project includes construction of a pucca building consisting of two rooms and supply of necessary furniture for each clinic at a cost of Taka two lakh. The thana-wise break up of community clinics are - Chhagalnaiya-25, Feni Sadar-25. Dhagon Bhuiya-15. Sonagazi-14 and Parshuram-10.

#### 3-day agri-fair concludes

NARSINGDI, Apr 2: A three-day Agricultural Fair-2000, organised by the Shibpur Thana Agriculture Extension Department, concluded here at Shibpur Thana Parishad premises on

Saturday, reports BSS.

A total of 12 stalls, with various kinds of agricultural products and related items, were set up in the fair. Rafique Ahamed, Project Coordinating Director of ADIP, inaugurated the fair. Presided over by Nurul Islam, Shibpur Thana Agriculture Officer, the concluding ceremony was attended by Abdul Majid, Deputy Director, AED Narsingdi, as the chief guest

#### Steps to check damage of guava

JHALAKATI, Apr 2: Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme on experimental basis to check damage of guava by unknown pest attack and diseases, reports UNB.

Hundreds of hectares of land are brought under guava cultivation in the southern districts of Jhalakati, Barisal and Patuakhali, and it has turned into a cash crop in the region. But for the last few years, the production went down to 50 to 60 per cent due to unknown reason and pest attack inflicting a huge loss to the farmers. As per the programme, some 280 guava plants affected by unknown pest and diseases in Nabogram union of Sadar thana, were brought under surveillance from March 29. Pesticide will be sprayed on these plants before the appearance of the buds and the process will continue in every 15 days. The department will take steps to popularise the measures among guava growers to boost production.



Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid addressing recently a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) workers' rally at Rangpur Hall. - Star photo

### BKB disburses Taka 10.46 crore loan

SHERPUR, Apr 2: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has, so far, distributed loan worth Taka 10 crore 46 lakh in the current fiscal year through its 10 branches. The loan have been given for cultivation of crops, livestock and housing programme, reports

According to BKB sources, the bank has, so far, disbursed loans of Taka four crore 64 lakh among 4,739 farmers of Sherpur region for Boro crop cultivation. Besides, an amount of Taka 97 crore 96 lakh has been disbursed among 747 farmers for livestock and Taka 9 crore 18 lakh among 54 people and for housing programme of the Prime Minister.

#### Literacy rate increasing

GHATAIL (Tangail). Apr 2: State Minister for Communications Mohammad Anisul Huq Chowdhury has said the country has been gradually advancing towards prosperity under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports

Addressing two separate public meetings at Shandanpur Union Parishad and Chauhatta Gano High School fields under Ghatail thana on Thursday, Anis said the image of Bangladesh has now brightened in the community of nations. The state minister said the country's economic growth, per capita income and rate of literacy have been gradually increasing. The prime minister, he said, has taken up specific steps for alleviation of poverty.

### Villagers' clash leaves 2 hurt

SUNAMGANJ, Apr 2: Two people were killed and 20 others injured in a clash between villagers and supporters of the lessee of a water body in Tahirpur thana on Thursday, reports UNB. Local people identified the deceased as Nazrul Islam, 32, and

Matin of Barodal village. Police confirmed the death of Nazrul. Witnesses said the clash erupted at about noon when residents of Barodal village attacked the supporters of the lessees of Matiain Jalmahal as a sequel to a dispute over the use of an embankment adjacent to the jalmahal. Several gunshots were fired during the clash. The lessee group allegedly had opened blank fire in Barodal on Wednesday night to scare the villagers.

### Man killed in road accident

COMILLA, Apr 2: A truck and a microbus collided head-on here on Dhaka-Chittagong highway killing a man and injuring

another two, reports UNB. Police said micro passenger Nilu Mia, 32, died on the spot when the Akhawra-bound micro and Noakhali-bound truck collided at Shitalia in Chouddogram thana at about 5.30 am. The injured admitted to Comilla Sadar Hospital could not be identified immediately.



A free eye camp was arranged recently at Kewar Mia Bari in Munshiganj under the joint sponsorship of Shapla Jubo Sangha and Bangladesh National Blind Welfare Association where 109 patients were operated upon and eyes of 1,200 others were tested.