RU students wait for results for seven months

From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY. Apr 30: Future of 850 students

of three departments of the university becomes uncertain as their masters examination results are yet to be published, although students appeared in the exams about seven months

450 students of Political Science Department, 275 students of Bangla Department and 125 students of Social Work Department have been waiting eagerly to get their masters results published.

The MSS (Masters of Social Science) examination of Political Science Department started on 8 September 1999 and ended after 25 days. MA (Masters of Arts) examination of Bangla Department started on 18 September 1999 and ended after 29 days.

MSS examination of Social Work Department started first week of October 1999 and ended after 40 days.

Students said they cannot amply for many jobs as their re-

sults are not published. The students have urged the teachers to publish their results immediately.

las are facing severe crisis due

to price hike of raw materials,

Lalpur upazila, said that he in-

herited the profession from his

father. "Time is very bad now.

We cannot meet the necessities

of life," he said in an emotion-

need financial support from

government agencies as the

interested in extending finan-

cial assistance to this profes-

sion. They need cash to pur-

chase iron, steel and coal,

Bhupendra Karmakar, an-

other aged blacksmith of Budh-

para village of the upazila, said

demand for their products has

declined greatly with moderni-

hardly any demand for house-

rake and plough-hook and

Faces of

From Our Correspondent

Kamerkhand in Sirajganj

Sabuj Kanon Preparatory

spondent in Pabna Masud

Kindergarten and UNB Corre-

He is the son of a teacher of

Our Gaibandha

Correspondent

says: Abu Sa-

vem Md Zannatun Noor

(Rishad) of Ahmeduddin

Shah Shishu

Gaibandha se-

Niketon.

l cured junior

scholarship in talent pool of

scholarship in talent pool in

1996 and received the institute's

Salam, Co-ordinator of Gano Unnayan Kendra a local non-

MV Al Borak

asked not to

leave Mongla

From Staff Correspondent

here has asked sea-going vessel

'MV Al Borak' not to leave

now anchored at the outer an-

chorage arrived at the port on

September 15 last year with

tion filed with the court that

877 bags (43.85 mts) of cement

were found missing from the

ship and 355 bags (267-75 mts)

were found partly damaged dur-

ternational, demanded com-

pensation for shortage and

damage of cargo from Seatime

Shipping Private Ltd of Singa-

pore and Sunshine Trading Ltd

case filed by the local agent of

the shipping line, MS Uniship

International Ltd. that owner of

the ship is yet to respond to fre-

quent reminders being given by

the importer for payment of

not to leave the port until fur-

It has further been stated in

The importer, Southeast In-

Mongla port.

ing unloading.

of Hong Kong.

compensation.

ther orders.

20,000 mts cement.

KHULNA, Apr 30: A court

governmental orgnisation.

He is the son of M Abdus

medal for best academic result.

He also secured primary

Class VIII this year.

SIRAJGANJ

Apr 30: S M

Roman Rana

(Barshon) se-

cured talent

pool primary

from Chak

scholarship

Shahabajpur

Non-govern-

School at

district.

Rana.

ment Primary

hold articles like spade, hoe,

According to him there is

sation of farming system.

He said the blacksmiths

non-government ones are not sion

which are not available at rea- ing extinction.

sickle. The users have taken to pamper.

choked voice.

sonable price.

working capital, reports UNB.

two plants in Katadoshi of Raishahi remained suspended since September 20, 1999.

The entire power-line from the national grid to transformers - of the region are in deplorable condition, causing frequent power disruption.

Most of the transformers have become obsolete and often burst in flame, cutting off power

power generation: 91 megawatts in barge-mounted Bejoyer Alo in Baghabari, 20 mws in Rangpur, 22 in Syedpur, 5 mws in Bogra, four mws in Thakur-

Ishwardi for the region comes over the Jamuna river through National Grid and the power is supplied to 14 grid stations through a 132-ky line to send it

through various capacitor The electricity finally reaches houses, mills and fac-

formers of 11-kv lines. There are eight 230-kv substations in the country of which only one is located in Ishardi

Fifty-eight of the substations are 132-kv of which 14 are situated in Bogra, Ishwardi, Natore, Polashbari, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Syedpur, Shahjatpur, Thakurgaon, Pabna, Chapainawabganj, Sirajganj, Lal-

line that occurred six times in

worse while some others are losing their capacities gradu-

A senior official said PDB has no plan to change the old machines or set up high-power line in the northern region in the current or the next fiscal

He said to bear the mounting pressure of power supply the region needs more transformers, but to the best of my knowledge no measure has yet been taken to set up more transformers in

the region. Meanwhile, some 20,000 irrigation pumps in the region have become inoperative, af-

fecting Boro padding. Although PDB asked the farmers to operate their pumps in between 11 pm and 6 am, but they cannot follow the schedule

because of low-voltage. Some 12 lakh acres of land were brought under Boro cultivation in the current season of which four lakh acres remain

Female farmers receive training in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent GOPALGANJ, Apr 30: More women in rural areas of the district now engage themselves in crop cultivation.

Rural women grow crops like radish, cauliflower, cabbage, kakrole, pumpkin, cucumber, bean, lady's finger, tomato, papaya and banana.

But these women need training on modern method of culti-

vation, local people said. Gopalganj Horticulture Centre, however, have started providing training to interested women of 22 selected villages of the district.

Over 2,000 destitute women in 22 villages are receiving training on modern method of farming.

Besides, various non-government organisations are also providing training relating to agricultural activities to women in the district.

Arsenic found in Chapainawabganj tubewell water

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 30: Arsenic content has been found in tubewell water in five upazilas of the district, reports

According to Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) sources, the upazilas are Shibganj, Sadar, Bholahat, Nachol and Gomastapur.

PHED collected water samples from tubewells of different areas of these upazilas.

The presence of arsenic in the water is reported to be high and harmful to health. Arsenic has been found in

water of a tubewell belonging to Enamul Hoque of Shibganj. He complained that his children and neighbours have been suffering from skin diseases.

Some people of Sadar Upazila have also been suffering from arsenic-related diseases.

Chicken pox in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, Apr 30: Chicken pox has broken out in an epidemic form in and around the

The most affected areas include Tepakhola, Luxmipur, East Khabashpur, Char Tepakhola, Char Tepurakandi and Char Madhabdia.

Causes of the outbreak of the disease could not be immediately known.

Truck driver killed in road accident

RANGAMATI, Apr 30 The driver of a truck was killed and the two helpers were injured fatally when it fell 200 feet into a ditch at a place between radio and TV centres in the town early Monday, reports BSS. The driver was identified as

Shah Alam, 28.

The helpers were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with severe wounds in legs and hands. They were identified as Mohammad Zahir, 18, and Shahazul Haq, 20, police and hospital sources said.

Rangamati Fire Service personnel rescued the victims from

the ditch. The truck was carrying fish to Dhaka. The accident took place at around 2 am when the

driver lost its control.

Currency forgers active in

northern dists

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Apr 30: As the movement of Indian counterfeiters in Bangladesh has marked an increase in recent times, rural people in frontier areas of Natore, Rajshahi and Chapai Nawabganj districts are being swindled with forged notes everyday.

Illiterate people in rural areas of these areas are frequently falling prey to the currency

Some local forgers in connivance with the counterfeiters of India are spreading forged notes of Tk, 100 and Tk 500 in-

side the country. Bangladeshi swindlers get 50 per cent commission from the Indian forgers for distribution of forged currencies notes in Bangladesh. The members of law enforcing are keeping deaf ears and this trend has added

dimension to the illegal busi-

ness of counterfeiters. .

239 criminal cases filed in Feni dist in 3 months

FENI, Apr 30: The law and order situation in the district continues to worsen as 239 criminal cases were filed in six thanas in last three months,

reports UNB. The criminal offences that took place during the period range from murder to rape, ac-

cording to police records. Of the cases, 98 were filed with Sadar thana, 42 with Sonagazi, 32 with Dagonbhuiyan, 37 with Chagalnaiya and 15 each with Fulgazi and Porshu-

Observers said the actual number of crimes would be much higher than the official figure as many victims do not dare to file cases against the terrorists.

ram thanas.

News smalps

Life term for 2 killers

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 30 : A court here awarded life term to two people in a murder case recently, reports UNB. According to prosecution, Ataur and Shamim killed Emdadul Hug Kabir, son of Mofizuddin at Rathkhola in the town on February 11, 1994. The court handed down the verdict against the accused after examining the case records and witnesses. Three other accused were acquitted. Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Razzak pronounced the verdict on April 13. He also fined each of them Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer two years more RI.

Timbers seized

BARGUNA, Apr 30: In an early morning raid, Navy men seized costly timbers from a sawmill, reportedly owned by a ruling party leader, at Koralia Bazaar in Patharghata thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Locals said the Navy personnel raided the sawmill early in the morning and recovered 237 pieces of timbers, including that of Dhundal and Sundari, worth Tk 1.5 lakh. They alleged that police were reluctant to take action against the sawmill owner. as he is a ruling party leader.

Teen commits suicide

MADARIPUR, Apr 30: A family feud at Joynagar in Jajia Upazila ended in the suicide of a 16-year-old girl on Saturday,

reports UNB. Villagers said Momtaz, daughter of Shah Alam Miah, took poison after a brawl with her family members and died on way to hospital.

Discussion on Muharram

MANIKGANJ, Apr 30 : A discussion meeting on "The Significance and Teaching of Muharram" under the auspices of Islami Sanskritic Forum, Manikganj was held at Bar Library recently, reports BSS.

Prof Ali Ahmed, Chairman of the forum presided over the function while Prof Abdul Basir, Principal of the Government Devendra College was the chief guest. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Advocate Moslem Uddin Khan. President, district Awami League and ex-state minister for Jute, Prof Abu Azha Ahmed, Asaduzzaman, Ex Principal, Government Devendra College, Maulana Mohammad Musa, Principal Manikganj Kamil Madrasha, Prof Majibar Rahman, Head of the Department of Economics, advocate Anwar Hossain and M Sirajul Islam.

PM's relief for tornado victims

NETRAKONA. Apr 30: The government has already sanctioned Taka 50,000 in cash. Taka one lakh as housebuilding grant and 25 tonnes of rice for the tornado victims in five upazilas, reports BSS.

Besides, a huge quantity of relief materials have already been sent to the affected areas from the Prime Minister's relief fund for the victims. The tornado which swept over five upazilas here on Thursday last, left a trail of devastation.



Jamuna Operation and Maintenance Company imported a modern rescue van recently for use along Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge area. The van which is first of its kind in Bangladesh will enable smooth rescue operation of highway accident affected vehicles along 33 km area on both the sides of the bridge. - Star photo

Motivation programme

SHERPUR, Apr 30: District Police has taken up a programme of motivation on law and order, reports BSS.

According to police sources, motivation meetings will be held in various educational institutions step by step. The district police feels that if such meetings are held in the educational institutions, attended by students, they will be conscious of existing laws and keep themselves away from involving in terrorist activities. In this connection, Police Super of Sherpur Mesbahun Nabi addressed the students of Sherpur Government College on April 22, highlighting the bad consequences of terrorist activities and copying in the examination.

TB claims 6 lives

SUNAMGANJ, Apr 30: Tuberculosis TB, a highly infectious disease, claimed six lives and affected 12 people in Jamalganj Upazila in last one month, reports UNB.

Of the affected people, five were reported from Jamalganj sadar union while two each from Phenarbak, Bhimkhali and Sachnabazar and one from Behelee unions. Twenty others were suspected to have developed the disease in the five unions. A total of 109 TB patient are undergoing treatment in the Upazila. where 80 volunteers were working to fight the deadly disease.

Lightning kills 5 in Sunamganj SUNAMGANJ, Apr 30: At least five people were killed and

six others injured in lightning in Derai and Sadar Upazilas on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said Mohammad Ali, 48, Bachchu, 31, Ziaur Rahman, 22, and Based Mia were killed by thunderbolt at Jagadal village in Derai Upazila. Four of the injured were admitted to Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital. On the same day, a streak of lightning at Gourarong union in Sadar Upazila killed an agriculture worker, Shah Alam, 30, and injured two others. They hailed from Bakbanda village in Roumari Upazila of Kurigram district.

Hospital ransacked

FENI. Apr 30: Agitated relatives of a patient, who died at Feni Sadar Hospital recently ransacked the emergency section of the hospital, and beat up a doctor and several staffs for their alleged negligence to duty, reports UNB.

Saifuddin 10, died at the hospital in the morning as both of his kidneys were damaged, hospital sources said. They said after the death of Saifuddin, his relative Minto, a former municipal commissioner, along with 7/8 hoodlums assaulted on-duty doctor Khokon Majumder, employee Kabir Ahmed, guard Dulal and ambulance driver Mujibur Rahman.



Step to give democracy a chance

Feni unit of FEMA organised a seminar recently on "Function and Election System of Union Parisads at the local Zila Parisad auditorium. - Star photo

Uninterrupted irrigation still a far cry

Load-shedding reappears in a worse form in N-dists

PABNA, Apr 30: Uninterrupted irrigation, which is crucial for a good harvest, still remains a far cry in the country's northern region, as load-shedding has reappeared rather in a

worse form, reports UNB. Irrigation on Boro paddy fields is seriously being hampered due to erratic power supply attributed to deplorable condition of power plans in the

Production in mills and industries in 16 northern districts also faces the same fate.

Sources at Power Development Board said the region faces 100-150 megawatts loadshedding a day as only 150-200 megawatts electricity are supplied in the districts against the demand for 350 megawatts during dry season.

They said a 71-megawatt power plant in Baghabari was shut down on January 13 due to mechanical fault and it may

Bad days for Natore,

Kushtia blacksmiths

NATORE, Apr 30: At least newer products manufactured

scarcity of coal and shortage of nancial support from either

smith of Bilamoria village in makar of Bilmaria village said

Anil Karmakar, 65, a black- ment side, Montu Charan Kar-

1.250 blacksmiths in six upazi- in factories.

take one year to repair it.

The blacksmiths have

hardly any scope for getting fi-

government or non-govern-

with a nod of sheer frustration.

Montu, 20, took the responsi-

bility on his shoulder from his

father to run the ancestral

business. He urged the govern-

ment to provide them loans on

easy terms and condition to help them stay in this profes-

said: In the absence of patroni-

sation the blacksmith commu-

nity is in severe crisis and fac-

produce agricultural and

household appliances can

hardly work as they do not have

adequate working capital when

many of the blacksmiths have

given up their ancestral profes-

sion and some of them turned

Transport

workers'

union poll

From Our Correspondent

election of Satkhira District

Transport Workers' Union was

elected are: President: Jalal Ud-

din, Vice Presidents: Arshad

Ali, Abdus Samad and Tariqul

Islam, General Secretary:

Mashiar Rahman, Assistant

General Secretaries: Rabiul Is-

lam and Sabur Ali, Organising

Secretary: Arshad Ali Khoka,

Assistant Organising Secretary:

A Motleb, Publicity Secretary:

Shahar Ali, Assistant Publicity

Secretaries: Sanjay Kumar and

Abu Bakkar and Treasurer:

Humayun-Kabir, Members: Ab-

dus Sattar, Rafiqul Islam, Ali

Akbar, Ramjan Ali, Azibar

Rahman, Ashkar Ali, Haroonar

'No society can

prosper by keeping

women neglected'

ter for Information Prof Abu

Sayeed has said Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina had introduced

allowances for the widows and

the women abandoned by their

husbands being imbibed with

love for womenfolk, reports

lowance distribution function

on Haturia-Nakalia Union

Parishad premises under Bera

upazila in Pabna district yes-

terday, the state minister said

women are the driving force of

development and no society

could prosper by keeping them

uneducated, neglected and poor,

according to an official hand-

determined to transform

He said the government was

Speaking at the monthly al-

PABNA, Apr 30: State Minis-

Rashid and Shahidul Islam

premises recently.

SATKHIRA, Apr 30 The

The office-bearers who were

Having no other alternative

price of raw materials like iron

and coal have gone high.

Another report from Kushtia

The blacksmiths used to

After completing HSC,

At present, 143 megawatts of electricity are generated and distributed in the northern region through the national grid. The plant-wise breakup of the

The 232-ky line installed in

transformers of 33-ky lines. tories through small trans-

thana for the northern region.

monirhat and Naogaon. Any major fault in any part of east-west inter-connection

entire area into darkness, said an official adding that the northerners had faced such a situation for three days in 1996. He said the condition of sub-

last few years may plunge the

stations in Rajshahi, Bogra and

Besides, power generation in to the substations and feeders Thakurgaon districts are even out of irrigation facility. SEMINAR ON SYLHET CENTER DATE: 2200 APRIL, 2000

> Prof Sadruddin Chowdhury, former Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'e-commerse' organised recently by APTECH, Sylhet centre. T Mitra, Country Operation Head of APTECH, Tapan Kanti Sarker, Executive Director pf Flora Systems Ltd, Prof Miftaur Rahman, Principal of Sylhet Government College and Muktabis -un-Noor, President of Sylhet Press Club are also seen in the picture. - Star photo

Storm claims 5 lives in Rangpur, Kushtia

By Staff Correspondent

Five persons were killed and 20 others injured in a devastating cyclonic storms in Rangpur and another nor'wester in

Kushtia recently. Our Rangpur Correspondent says: A severe cyclonic storm which lashed vast areas of Rangpur district recently with a velocity of over 90 kilometer per hour claimed five lives and caused injuries to at least 200 persons, according to officials and eyewitnesses. held here at the bus terminal

Among the deceased. Rahima Begum Tuni (13), of local Tajhat died due to wall collapse, Jahanara, 32, of Haridebpur Panbari died due to house collapse, Abul, 40, of Pirgacha Tambulpur and Aleya, 25, of Lalchandpur Khaleya union died as tree fell on them, and Babu, 3, of Taragonj died

due to lighting. Of the 200 injured, 50 were admitted in different hospitals including Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) where 15 injured were undergoing treatment. Most of the persons were injured either due to tree falling

or house collapse. Among them

15 persons were injured when a Dinajpur bound passenger bus skidded near the Rangpur bus terminal. The ill-fated bus with 40 passengers on board was rushing from Bogra, but before taking safe shelter at that time it fell victim of the calamity.

According to informations received from the affected areas, the cyclonic storm which companying hails and shower at around 10 pm caused colossal

joining areas. There were allegations that relief operation in the affected

evening.

severely damaged by lightning. were: Gangachara, Sadar,

areas were quite meagre resulting to an untold misery to thousands of cyclone victims. Many of those became shelterles and passing days almost half fed. UNB from Kushtia says: At least 20 people were injured as a nor'wester coupled with downpour swept six thanas of Kushtia district on Saturday

lasted around 15 minutes acdamages to about 10,000 kutcha

Taragonj, Pirgachha and its ad-

The storm, packing a speed dwelling houses, standing boro of over 100 kph, also damaged a and wheat crops, mango and large number of thatched and lichi fruits while innumerable semi-pucca houses, and boro trees were uprooted. Electricity paddy and jute on vast tracts of supply across the district and train communication between During its 30-minute fury, Rangpur and Parbatipur rethe storm toppled electric poles mained paralysed for at 12 in many places cutting off hours due to falling of tree on power supply. Traffic in various electric wires and rail lines. A parts of the town was disrupted number of electric poles were as many uprooted trees blocked damaged causing disruption of power supply. The 20 MW power With Saturday's one. plant at the outskirt of Rangpur nor'wester lashed the district tewn went out of order as it was for the fourth time in last one week rendering many people The worst cyclone hit thanas homeless and causing colossal damage to standing crops.



Fatch Khatoon, a helpless housewife and her two children waiting under the open sky for relief in Tajhat of Rangpur district. A recent cyclonic storm raged their house to the ground completely. The victim is a member of landless association in Gangachhara upazila - Star photo as her house was devoured by the River Teesta a few years ago.

This flag bearer of Honduras women into human resources by integrating them with all socio-economic activities. He called upon the people to

strengthen the hands of Prime It has been stated in the peti- Minister Sheikh Hasina. Later, Prof Sayeed distributed prizes to the winners of annual sports competition of

Bera Degree College.

Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

on Thursday arrested eight people from Chuadanga Government College area during HSC examinations on charge of violating Section 144. However, on the first day of the exams a total of 45 HSC ex-

aminees were expelled on

means in the examinations in

The court has asked the ship charges of adopting unfair

the districts.

Eight held in northern districts everyday.

CHUADANGA, Apr 30: Police

number of cattle mainly oxen and buffaloes are being smuggled into Bangladesh illegally

traders purchase and carry these cattle to other parts of the country. Many cattle enter through the eastern part of the country from the Indian border of Hili, Mogholhat, Burimari everyday by road and through riverway via Sirajganj, Bhuapur and Jamuna Bridge. A good number of smuggled cattle are sent to Dhaka through Siraj-

ganj, a safe route of smuggling.

It is learnt that paying

bribes 'selami' to the members

of law-enforcing agencies, the

SIRAJGANJ Apr 30: Huge to four thousand cattle everyday through Jamuna Bridge and

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

A safe route of cattle smuggling

ghat. Besides, a large number of Indian cattle rush Bangladesh through the border along through Hili of Dinajpur, Mogholhat and Burimari of A section of unscrupulous Lalmonirhat, Bhurungamari, Sonarhat, Roumari, Chilmari of Kurigram, Sonamasjid of Chapai Nawabganj and border areas of Thakurgaon. Money collected as bribe is distributed among police, BDR personnel and other members of the law

seal or through Union Parisad (UP) chairman's certificates. The government is losing a huge amount of money as revenue as these smuggled cattle smugglers pass with about three are coming through illegal way.

The smuggled cattle are

turned legal after taking false

enforcing agencies.

of influential persons and unscrupulous people are becoming rich by doing such malprac-Meanwhile, Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge West Police raided 14 night coaches in the

name of checking and seized il-

legally ownerless huge quantity

of Indian goods such as saree,

On the other hand, one section

sugar and cosmetics valued about Tk five lakh. Later, on the concerned Officer-in-Charge (OC) sold the seized goods in exchange of only Tk 10,000. In order to give an eye wash to the public, he filed only a General Diary (GD) which angered the people. They also brought it to the notice of Sirajganj district administration.