

SNAPS

**Disabled Day observed**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**  
The National Disabled Day was observed here in a befitting manner on Saturday.  
The Forum for Livelihood and Empowerment of Disabled People brought out a procession which paraded the main streets of the town and organised a street corner meeting at the local bus terminal to mark the day.  
Among others, Mahbulul Islam, ADC (Gen), Harun-ur Rashid, Deputy Director, Social Welfare Directorate, Monowara Talukder and the Gaibandha Disabled School headmaster Idris Ali addressed.

**Tk 10 lakh snatched**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**  
Miscreants snatched Tk 10 lakh from an employee of a private firm at Nabatki in the Sadar upazila on Saturday.  
Shuamoy Bhattacharya, senior executive of Colola Corporation, drew the money from Satkhira branch of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd and was going to Sonali Bank's Bhomra branch to deposit the money for importing bitumen.  
The miscreants put up a barricade on the road at Nabatki and snatched the money along with a mobile phone.  
A case has been filed with the Satkhira thana.

**Withdrawal of certificate cases demanded**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**  
Krishak Samity, an organisation of farmers brought out a procession here on Saturday demanding withdrawal of all certificate cases against the farmers.  
The procession started from its office on Mukul Cinema Road and ended in front of Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office. After the procession a meeting was held.  
Among others, Krishak Samity president Motaleb Mollah and secretary Subhas Chanda addressed the meeting.  
They also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister (PM) through the DC.

**37 arms licenses cancelled in Bogra**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra**  
The district administration recently cancelled licenses of 37 firearms due to non-renewal of licenses.  
Bogra deputy commissioner (DC) cancelled the licenses under Arms Act.  
Prominent among those whose arms licenses were cancelled are: Brigadier General Ruhul Alam Chowdhury, Lt Col Dewlar Hossain, Lt Col Shahedul Islam Mondal, Tohura Begum, wife of former Additional district magistrate of Bogra, former divisional engineer (phones) Shahabuddin Ahmed, Jobeda Begum, wife of former deputy director of National Security and Intelligence (NSI) and ex-police super of Bogra Syed Monirul Islam.  
Earlier, the administration issued a public notice and informed the police authorities to seize pistol, rifle and civil gun for non-renewal of licenses.

**India's river-linking project to turn Bangladesh into a desert**

State Minister for Water Resources says at a meeting with farmers in Nilphamari

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

State Minister for Water Resources Advocate Goutam Chakraborty has said "Bangladesh will become a desert" if India implements its river inter-linking project.  
He however said, "It is our belief that India would not proceed with the mega project violating international law".  
But Bangladesh will have to create world opinion against the Indian plan. He also urged all to realise the disastrous effect of such a plan in the whole region.  
He was exchanging views with farmers who benefited from the first phase of the Teesta Irrigation Project.

Project.  
Held on Saturday at Dimla, the meeting was also addressed by Water Development Board (WDB) engineer Azhurul Islam and farmers' representatives. Chairman of Khalisha Chapani union in Dimla upazila Ataur Rahma was in the chair.  
Goutam Chakraborty said India's withdrawal of Ganges water at Farakka point has already caused disaster to Bangladesh's ecology and environment.  
The proposed mega river project will not only affect Bangladesh but also certain areas of India, he said. Voices are being raised against the project in India also.  
Turning to the Teesta project, he

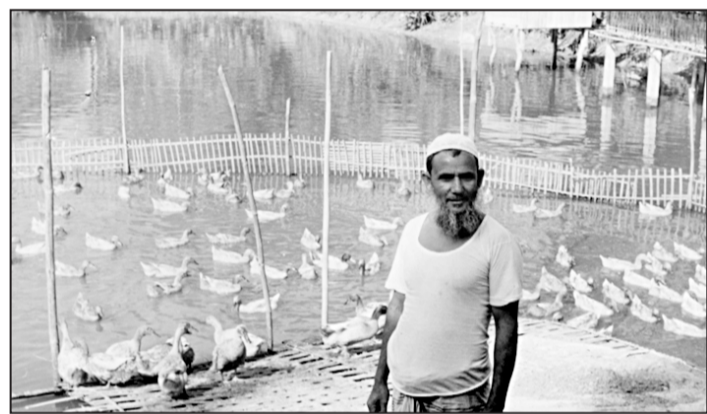
said the first phase of the project has been a grand success in providing irrigation facilities.  
Work on the second phase of the Teesta Irrigation Project would be started this year, the state minister said.  
He said the second phase, when implemented, would provide irrigation facilities to 5.40 lakh hectares of land in 33 upazilas of Nilphamari, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Joypurhad and Bagra district. The project will cost about 1,200 crore taka, he said.  
Prior to the meeting, the state minister visited different areas in Dimla under the first phase of the project.



State Minister for Water Resources Advocate Goutam Chakraborty during a visit to some areas under the Teesta Irrigation Project (Phase -1) in Dimla prior to his meeting with farmers on Saturday.

**From rags to riches**

Once day-labourer Farid Mia now a land owner, earns Tk 30,000 a month from duck farm, fishery



A partial view of Farid Miasa's (seen in the picture) duck farm at Rambhadra village in Sunderganj upazila. The photo was taken last week.

He made the fortune from an integrated duck and fishery project in a three bigha pond.  
With the income from the project, illiterate Farid Mia has also purchased ten bighas of land at Rambhadra village under Sunderganj upazila in about 13 years.  
Traders from Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Bogra, Krukurigram and Joypurhad come to his Sonali Poultry and Hatchery Project along the Sunderganj-Bamondanga road to collect eggs and chicken.  
Farid Mia had procured three ducks of Cambel and Ding Ding species from Lalbagh Poultry Farm in Rangpur in 1990.  
Within months they produced 75 chicken. He reared those carefully. He developed a simple method to incubate duck eggs by using paddy husk.  
This opened the door to prosperity. He started selling duck chicken.  
"Now I can not meet traders'

demand for eggs and chicks", Farid Mia told this correspondent during a recent visit to his farm.  
He gets not less than 800 eggs from about 2000 ducks in his farm.  
Farid Mia supplies chicken for free among poor villagers and buys back the eggs. They are also benefited, he said.  
"Farid Mia is a successful poultry farmer. His success will undoubtedly inspire others", said Shawkat Hossain, District Livestock Officer.  
"I had no training, only experience helped me", he said.  
Seeing Farid Mia's success, many of the villagers have started duck rearing at Rambhadra. Farid Mia is now well known in the area.

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

Farid Mia used to work as a day

labourer and at times peddle rickshaw to earn bread for his family.  
His now earns around Tk 30,000 a month.

**Human chain on Carmichael College campus**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur**  
Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Saturday formed a human chain on the Rangpur Carmichael College campus demanding arrest and punishment to Muhibul Hassan Tuhin's assailants.  
Hundreds of students participated in the human chain which lasted from 12 noon to 12:10 pm. After the programme the college authority assured them of proper steps to nab the killers.  
Tuhin, a former student of M A class of the college was killed recently on the campus by unidentified assailants. The students feel insecure after the killing.  
A case was registered with Gabindaganj police station. Police could not arrest any one till filing of the report on Saturday afternoon.

**Death for killer husband in Barisal**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**  
A killer husband was condemned to death by the First Additional District and Sessions Judge Court here on Saturday.  
Arshed Howlader, 30, father of three children was convicted for killing his wife Pushi Begum, 24, who opposed his extra-marital affair with another woman named Nazma Begum.  
Arshed of Gobindopur village strangled his wife Pushi following a quarrel with her over the unsocial act on May 25 in 2001. Afterward the killer poured poison in her mouth.  
The victim's brother Munir Hossain filed a case against Arshed and Nazma Begum. But the court acquitted Nazma of charges.  
First Additional District and Sessions Judge ZM Kuddus Zaman pronounced the judgement.

**6 fishermen missing in rough sea**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**  
Inclement weather keeps fishing boats moored along coast: Sea to remain rough five days more  
ern coast for the last four days.  
The sea will remain very rough four or five days more, fishermen said.  
The sea is very rough with waves rising up to 10m feet, fishermen coming from Kuakata, Pathaughata and Galachipa coastal areas said.  
All fishing boats and trawlers have taken shelter at Alipur Khal, Mohipur Khal and Dosh Khal in Kalapara; Char Montaj and Char Biswak in Galachipa and in Patharghata upazila.  
Morshed Ali, a fish trader at Alipur in Kalapara upazila, said this is a Hilsa-catching season but fishermen are sitting idle due to the rough sea.  
Six fishermen are missing as their trawler FB Shajalal sank in the rough sea off the Golachipa coast in Patuhalhi district on Saturday.  
There were eight fishermen on board. Two of them-- Jalil and Kader--, rescued by other fishing boats, reached Charmontaj at about noon yesterday.  
The survivors said the six missing fishermen are Sattar of Charmontaj, Berek, Sohul and Jafar of Charkajal, Shah Alam of Charanda and Milon of Rangabail.  
But the incident could not be confirmed from administration sources at Galachipa upazila.  
The survivors said the rough sea has kept hundreds of fishing trawlers moored along the south-

**Govt failed in all sectors, claims former state minister**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**  
Awami League (AL) central leader and former state minister for relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP has said demanding resignation of a "failed government" is not undemocratic.  
AL is demanding the alliance government's resignation, because it has failed in every sector, Khaleque claimed while addressing a council of Magura Sadar thana AL, held at an auditorium in the town on Saturday.  
Chaired by Rustam Ali, the council was addressed by, among others, Magura district AL convener Altaf Hossain, local lawmaker Dr M Serajul Akbar, former lawmaker Biren Shikder, district AL joint convener Abu Nasir, former secretary of Sadar thana AL Pankaj Kumar and Babul Ahmed Fakir.  
The council formed a new committee of Sadar thana AL headed by Pankaj Kumar and Babul Ahmed Fakir as president and general secretary respectively.

**Magura dist leaders forced to hold AL council on schedule**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura**

Leaders and activists forced the Magura district Awami League leaders to withdraw a postponement order and held the Shalikh upazila party council on schedule yesterday.  
The district leaders on Saturday ordered postponement of the scheduled council fearing clash due to intra-party feud.  
But the upazila leaders and activists assured their district leaders of a "peaceful and disciplined" council and also compelled them to join it.  
The council was however delayed by about two hours.  
Former state minister for relief and rehabilitation Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP was the chief guest at the council.  
Mid-level leaders in the upazila played the pivotal role in holding the council on schedule, party insiders told this correspondent.  
As the district leaders postponed the council, some of the mid-level leaders led by advocate Kamal Hossain met them Saturday night and held a meeting.  
They convinced the leaders to hold the council on schedule and assured them that there would not be any trouble, Abul Khayer a local party leader said.  
Earlier, the two factions led by Shalikh upazila AL President Tarpada Biswas and advocate Kamal Hossain had called separate councils at Arpara College ground and at Arpara Girls High School premises, they said.  
As the district leaders agreed to the scheduled holding of the council, septuagenarian Tarpada, who led the party at the upazila for 27 years, resigned allegedly due to

"disagreement with district leaders", party sources said.  
When contacted, Tarpada however told this correspondent that he resigned due to old age.  
The council was finally held on Arpara Girls High School premises with Shalikh AL vice-president Imarat Sikder in the chair.  
District AL convener Md Altaf Hossain inaugurated the council, addressed by, among others, local lawmaker Dr. M Sraju Akbar, former lawmaker Biren Shikder, Magura Municipality Chairman Abdul Gafur and district AL Joint Secretary Abu Naser Bablu.  
The new committee was not declared till filing of the report at 3-15 pm yesterday.

**Woman, minor son abducted in Khulna**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**  
A housewife and her nine-year-old son were abducted by unidentified miscreants here on April 6.  
Jasmin Sultana, 40, and her minor son Zayed bin Amin were abducted while returning home after shopping in the KDA New market. Jasmin Sultana, wife of Amir Ali, senior officer of Khulna city branch of Krishi Bank was possessing 8,000 taka, two gold bangles, ear rings, necklace and a mobile phone (0172-250651) when she set out for shopping. She is also a trainer of a Royermahal Tailoring School. The abductors gave death threat to her husband.

**Death threat to police officer**

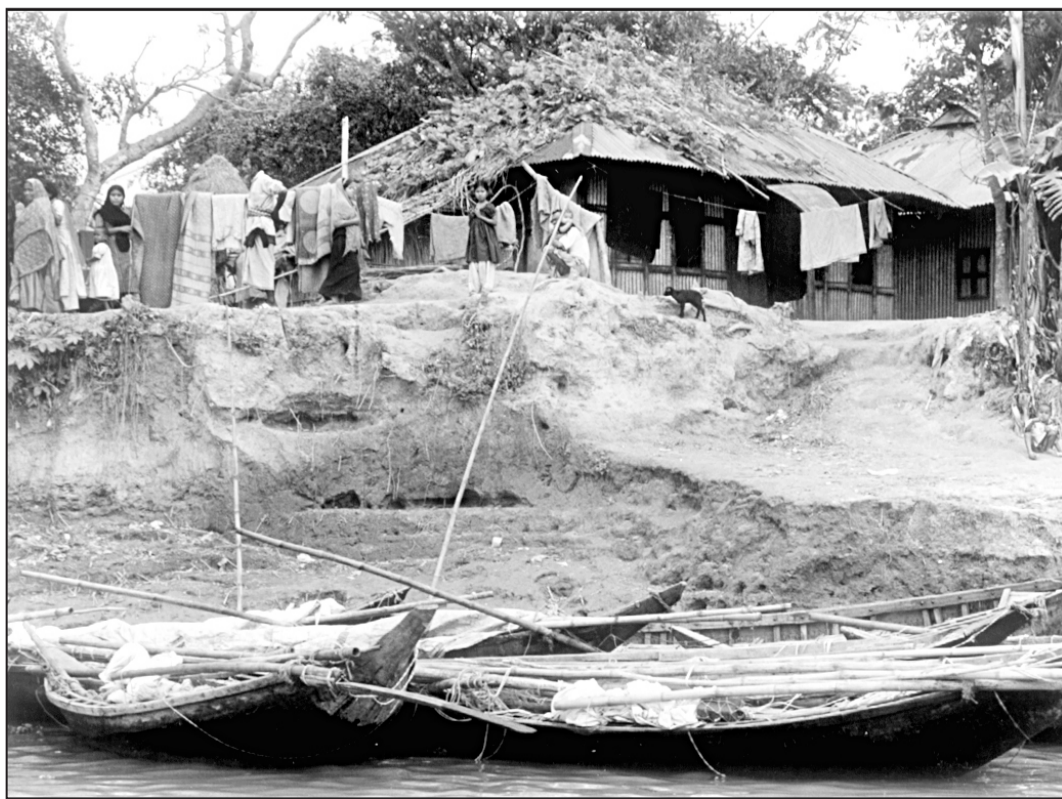
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**  
Chuadanga Sadar thana sub-inspector Hayatuzzaman received a death threat from outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) on Thursday.  
He filed a general diary in the thana as he was asked to leave Chuadanga by April 15 or face death.  
It was learnt that the police officer arrested BCP armed cadres during the ongoing special combing operation in Chuadanga.



The newly-elected executives of Khagrachhari unit of the National Union Parishad Forum (NUPF) pose for photograph with the guests at a meeting to exchange opinion held at the hilly town recently. ARD representative Ahmed K. Rashid, member Hiramoti Barua, chairman Bishwa Kalyan Chakma, NUPF-Chittagong vice president M Solaiman, vice-chairman Mallika Chakma, women affairs secretary Fatema Begum, organising secretary Khurshedul Alam Nayan, general secretary Sunuprue Chowdhury, vice-chairman Nagendra Narayan Tripura, vice-chairman Samar Bikash Chakma and office secretary Aprushi Marma are seen in the picture.

**B'baria municipal polls on May 6**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria**  
Election to Brahmanbaria Paurasabha will be held on May 6, according to a recent announcement of the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Muhammad Hanif, also the Returning Officer of Brahmanbaria Paurasabha Election-2004.  
A total of 86, 053 voters will cast their votes in 32 polling centres. Of them 44, 524 are male voters and 41, 529 female voters.  
According to the district election officer, the last date for receiving the nomination paper is April 11 while the scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on April 12. The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is April 19.



Bracing for the worst... Poor Ramjan Ali says he will have to shift soon before the mighty Meghna devours his homestead. The river is rising in Chandpur, so also his worries. Some croplands near his homestead have already eroded into the river, he told this photojournalist on Thursday.