

NEWS SNAPS

Old man killed in road mishap

UNB, Bagerhat
An old man was killed in a road accident at C & B crossing in Bagerhat town on Thursday evening. Police said Alauddin Hawlader, 70, was critically injured as a speeding motor cycle hit him from behind. He died on way to Khulna Medical College Hospital. Police seized the motorbike.

Body of teen recovered

UNB, Gazipur
The body of a teenaged boy was recovered from Pagar in Tongi on Friday after four days of his missing. Police said Sohag, 16, son of Mohor Ali, went out of his house at the call of his friends. But he did not return home. Police recovered the body packed in a sack. A case was filed.

Scout conference in Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj
A five-day conference of Habiganj district scouts began here at the premises of Government High School on Friday. State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury inaugurated the conference with District Scout President and Deputy Commissioner Wahidunnabi Chowdhury in the chair. Some 450 scouts from 49 educational institutions in eight upazilas are taking part in the conference.

Non-iodised salt on sale

UNB, Narail
Non-iodised salt is being sold at different rural bazaars of Narail defying government ban. The government strictly prohibited production, distribution, storage and sale of non-iodised salt. But some unscrupulous traders are engaged in selling non-iodised salt at Rugganj, Gobra, Mizepara, Peroli, Agdia, Chanchuri, Lohagara, Bordidia, Digholia, Lahurea, Eranda, Naldi and Tolarampur. Poor people in different areas particularly, haor areas, are purchasing non-iodised salt at cheap rate. Iodised salt is on sale at 10-14 taka per kg while non-iodised salt at 7-8 taka per kg.

Poor getting essential health services thru' public-private partnership

UNB, Brahmanpara (Comilla)

Reaching essential health services to the bottom poor, particularly women and children in remote villages, is not an easy task, but public-private partnership can make it possible.

Brahmanpara upazila has become a bright example of such partnership among government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local community that helped attain remarkable success in providing healthcare facilities to the grass root people.

The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for Essential Service Package (ESP), an innovative scheme of the government under its Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP), is getting popular day by day in this upazila.

The programme brought a ray of hope in the mind of people as they find essential health services within their reach.

Community health committees comprising government and private providers are extending regular health services including EPI, anti-and pre-natal care, medicines and health education to the people, generally deprived of healthcare facilities.



Healthcare service providers meeting at EPI session under public-private partnership (PPP) in one centre at Gopalnagar in Brahmanpara upazila, Comilla. PPP for Essential Service Package (ESP), an innovative scheme of the government under its Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP), is getting popular here.

"PPP has been striving to ensure people's effective participation in the existing healthcare service", said Dr Momena Khatun, PPP national advisor while talking to a group of journalists visiting a

project spot here last week.

She said the concept is new but getting popularity in the community with increasing cooperation among all stakeholders.

"Now we do not need to go to the upazila health complex for our day-to-day health problem, or we have to wait for the health workers or volunteers," said Fuljan waiting in one PPP centre at Gopalnagar in the upazila.

Convinced by other villagers, Fuljan, mother of two children including one under-five, came to the 'Gopalnagar Sasthya Seba Sangha' for taking treatment. "I'm satisfied with the service available here," she said.

The DFID-funded programme is being implemented by NICARE and British Council since May 2001 through establishing 24 community-based health centres in six unions of Brahmanpara upazila on experimental basis.

Treatment for usual physical discomforts like headache, fever, cough, diarrhoea, along with national programmes like immunisation are carried out through these health centres everyday from 9am to 5pm.

Besides, family planning, repro-

ductive health service and finding polio cases are included in their job list.

During the daylong visit at Gopalnagar, Mohalazmipara, Shidlai, Naigher and Shahidai unions of the upazila Iftakheruddin Ahmed, PPP pilot coordinator, briefed the journalists about the programme.

He informed that the government has a target to establish 13,500 community clinics, out of which 11,000 have already been set up throughout the country. Many of these clinics were built in inaccessible areas.

Dr Momena said PPP, besides providing essential health services, has extended various supports like constructing approach roads and supplying medical equipment to make the community clinics useful for the community.

The bottom poor, whose names are enlisted in the clinics through group discussion, get free treatment but minimum charge is collected from the rich, middle class and poor category people, according their affordability.

7 pull out of UP polls race protesting highhandedness of pro-BNP candidates

UNB, Kushtia

Two chairman candidates and five candidates for membership in the union parishad (UP) elections at two unions in Daulatpur upazila withdrew from the election race protesting highhandedness of government-backed candidates.

Hogbaria UP chairman candidate and Awami League (AL) leader Rezaul Haque Chowdhury, Maricha UP chairman candidate Abdus Samad and member candidates Milon, Bazlur Rashid, Waliur Rahman, Tofazzal Hossain and Mukul Master of Hogbaria union announced their withdrawal from the race at a press conference on February 25 at the local Reporters' Unity office.

They said they could not launch their election campaign because of harassment and threat by BNP-backed candidates and son of a

state minister.

Armed BNP cadres were trying to intimidate voters into voting for pro-government candidates, they said, citing their inability to appoint polling agents.

Supporters of pro-government candidate Jahangir Alam Jhalu and another chairman candidate Saidur Rahman exchanged gunfire at Boiragir Char-Kalitala in Maricha union early February 25.

Supporters of BNP-backed chairman candidate Noimuddin Sentu allegedly attacked a motorcade of Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal (JSD)-backed chairman candidate Ashraf Siddiqui Rekat at Golbaria in Philipnagar union.

The attackers held three supporters of Rekat hostage and seized their motorbike.

Later, police rescued the three people.

Madaripur UP polls violence death toll 3

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Death toll in Madaripur Union Parishad (UP) elections violence rose to three.

Another man who suffered bullet wounds in an election violence on February 12, died on February 22. The death toll may rise as condition of five others were critical.

The clash occurred at village Sarmangal of Khalia union in Rajoir upazila leaving one dead on the spot and about 100 injured. About 53 injured persons were hit by bullet.

The deceased was identified as Saleman Mollah, 25.

Police said 15 bullet marks were detected at various parts of Saleman's body.

AL-BNP clash in Chandpur leaves 30 injured

UNB, Chandpur

At least 30 people, including a policeman, were injured in a series of clashes between Awami League (AL) and BNP activists at Shahrasti and Kochua on Friday.

Locals said the clashes ensued as the district administration imposed section 144 at Poranpur field in Shahrasti where local AL and BNP called meetings on Friday.

Earlier, the district administration imposed section 144 at Ashrafpur union of Kochua upazila as ruling BNP and opposition AL called meetings there.

Former State Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was scheduled to address the meetings.

As AL was barred from holding meeting at the above venues, agitated activists locked into clashes with BNP activists at various places of the two upazilas.

Obituary

UNB, Rangamati

Freedom Fighter M Nazmul Haq of Asambosti died on Wednesday. He was 60.

M Nazmul Haq, who was suffering from various diseases, died on a launch when he was going to Rangamati from Borkol.

Nazmul was buried with state of honour at a local graveyard after his namaz-e-jaanaza on Thursday.



Professor Zubaida Gulshan Ara presents her key-note paper in Bangla on "Globalisation of Bangla Bhasha O Shahittya" at Feni on Tuesday. On her right is poet Al-Mahmud, who presided over the session. PEN Bangladesh President Farida Hossain, Professor Shudhir Bikash Deb, Principal of Feni Government College and chief guest of the literary session are seen on right.