

NEWS SNAPS

Housewife allegedly commits suicide

UNB, Jhalakathi
A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticides at village Purbo Kamdevpur in Nolchhiti upazila on Sunday.
Rina Begum, 20, wife of Idris Ali took pesticides following a family feud, according to local people. Police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

Computer fair begins

UNB, Comilla
A six-day Computer Fair-2003 began in the town here on Sunday.
Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the fair organised by District Computer Association. President of the Association Ramiz Khan presided over the inaugural ceremony where Anwarul Azim MP, Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Ministry M Fazlur Rahman and Deputy Commissioner Tariqul Islam were also present.

38 injured in clashes

UNB, Manikganj
Some 38 people, including women and children, were injured in separate clashes at three villages in Sadar upazila here Friday.

A clash between two rival groups over selling and buying of rice at village Pitlai left 20 people injured. In another incident, 16 people received injuries in a clash that erupted over the demarcation of boundary of a house at Chandair village. A couple was injured in a pre-poll violence at Char Mou village of the upazila. case was filed with Naldanga thana.

Agri loan disbursed

BSS, Khulna
Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed agriculture loan amounting to 2,07,40,000 taka to 330 persons in seven months of the current fiscal.
According to official sources, the BRDB disbursed 4,70,45,000 taka to 620 poor farmers as agriculture loan during the last 2001-02 fiscal.

Elections become a family affair

Z A M KHAIRUZZAMAN

Electioneering is dividing families in the Union Parishad (UP) polls this year, as sons stand against fathers, candidates are challenged by their son-in-laws and nephews and uncles battle for chairmanships.

And in a contest in Barisal district, Hosanur Begum is taking on her brother-in-law, Shahensha Chowdhury, in Crugaria in Hizla upazila.
This family rivalry is in addition to the husband-and-wife races reported in The Daily Star on Monday.
Sons are standing against fathers in five districts: Rajib Chowdhury and father Salahuddin Chowdhury (in Sadar union in Manpara upazila, Bhola); Kamaluddin Babul and Bazlur Rahman (Sundalpur union, Sadar upazila, Noakhali); Shahadat Hossain and Morshed Alam (Purnimagati union, Ullapara, Sirajganj); Sardar Mahmudul Hasan Tutul and Sardar Mamta Uddin (Chalakchar union, Monohordi upazila, Narsingdi); and Monzurul Huq Talukder and Abul Hossain Talukder (Malancha union, Kahlalu upazila, Bogra).

Brahmanbaria district has two son-in-laws challenging their wife's father - Shohrawardy and Mangal Mia of Kaitola union in Nabinagar upazila, and Mohammad Ali and Abul Hashem Bhuiyan of Singerbeel union of Sadar upazila.

There are similar contests in Patuakhali, Jessore and Dhaka districts. Shahidul Islam is challenging his father-in-law, Abdul Mannan Howlader, a three-times elected UP chairman of Singerbeel union in Sadar upazila. Zakir Hossain is competing against Bazlur

Rahman of Moshinagar union in Monirampur upazila. And Emdadul Huq and his father-in-law, Hajeer Nurul Islam, are rivals in Tetla union, Savar upazila.

When it comes to battling brothers, Kushtia district leads the way, with a three-way competition between Abdul Jalil, Abdul Khalil and Abdur Rahim of Sadar union in Khoksa upazila.

Sirajganj district has two brothers vying for positions, Manik Mia and Halim Mia of Rubgati union in Shahjadpur upazila.

Others fighting brotherly power struggles are Safikuddin Khondker and Abdul Latif Khondker of Teota union in Shibalaya upazila, Manikganj district; Mizanur Rahman and Iqbal Hossain (Jainkathi union, Sadar upazila, Patuakhali district); Mizanur Rahman and Mahmudul Karim (Mandani union, Sadar upazila, Laxmipur district); Nannu Parvez and Mostafizur Rahman (Gunabitoia union, Madarganj upazila, Jamalpur district).

Uncle and nephew contests are also adding spice to elections in six districts.

The rivals are Abdul Khaleque Howlader and his nephew Harun-ar-Rashid of Char Fashion union in Ramgati upazila in Luxmipur district; Abdul Hakim and Safiqul Islam (Ward 7 under Bagmara union of Laksham upazila, Comilla); Ismail Hossain Fakir and Abdul Khabir (Kuptola union in Sadar upazila, Gaibandha); A K M Abdul Matin and Ilias Chowdhury (Gharam union, Patia upazila, Chittagong); Abdul Aziz and Nazimuddin (Shantahar union, Bogra); and Ataur Rahman and Zakiul Huq Bulbul (Sidhuli union, Sadarganj upazila, Jamalpur).



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

Electioneering goes on in full swing in Kalma union of Louhajang thana in Munshiganj district. Both candidates and voters of this union have urged the local administration to take adequate steps to ensure free and fair election. Elections to various unions of Louhajang will be held on March 10.

Fund shortage hits literacy project in C'nawabganj

UNB, Chapainawabganj

'Alokita Nobabganj', a project of Total Literacy Movement (TLM) has been facing setback since long due to fund shortage.

Local administration took up the project in 1998 to free the district from illiteracy by 2001. A committee was formed next year with the then Deputy Commissioner (DC) as its president.

Five upazilas and three

municipalities were brought under the project and 55 mass education centres were established under a pilot project. Some 2.84 lakh illiterate people between the age of 11 to 45 were identified through a survey. Supervisors and teachers were also appointed for them.

Later a budget of Tk 8.86 crore was submitted to the government for implementation of the project which is yet to be allocated. As a result, the project is hanging in the balance.

Pulse output target fixed at 12,930 MT in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A total of 13,280 hectares of land has been brought under pulse cultivation in four upazilas of Magura district.

The output target was fixed at 12,930 metric tons (MTs), official sources said.

Sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) informed that 1,355 hectares of land had been brought under vetch cultivation, 7,710 hectares under 'khesari' and 1,115 hectares under pea cultivation.

Upazila-wise break-up is given below.

In Sadar upazila, 3,250 hectares of land have been brought under lentil cultivation, in Sreepur, 1,100 hectares, in Shalikhah, 1,360 hect-

ares and in Mohammadpur upazila, 2,000 hectares have been brought under lentil farming.

In Sadar upazila, 'khesari' is being cultivated on 500 hectares of land. In Sreepur upazila, 1,425 hectares have been earmarked for 'khesari' farming, in Shalikhah, on 375 hectares and in Mohammadpur upazila, on 800 hectares of land.

Vetch is being cultivated on 550 hectares of land in Sadar upazila, on 175 hectares in Sreepur and on 600 hectares in Mohammadpur upazila.

Pea is being cultivated on 250 hectares in Sadar upazila, on 275 hectares in Sreepur, on 40 hectares in Shalikhah and on 550 hectares in Mohammadpur upazila.

Road accident, suicide

Three die in Pabna, Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

A little boy was killed in a road accident at Nakshi on Sherpur-Nalitabari road on Wednesday.

Police said Shafiqul Islam, 9, son of Hasmat Ali of Nakshi, was injured when he tried to get down from a running tempo.

He died on way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

In another incident, Sufia Khantun, 20, wife of Mustafizur

Rahman of village Ainatoli in Nalitabari upazila, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on the same day.
She died at the upazila health complex later. Reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

Another report from Pabna adds: Akter Ali, 8, son of Akbar Ali allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at village Tiapara in Faridpur upazila on Thursday.

Bid to loot money from bank in Barisal foiled

UNB, Barisal

Armed bandits made an abortive attempt to loot Mahilara branch of Krishi Bank in Gournadi upazila here early Friday.

Police and bank sources said a gang of robbers entered into the bank breaking open its door-lock.

They, however, failed to open the safety vault and took away the money.

The dacoits also kept confined

six college students to prevent them from making hue and cry during the robbery.

The students were returning homes after enjoying a cultural function.

Police later released the students after interrogation.

Branch manger Sultan Ahmed admitted the incident saying that there was no night guard and alarm system at the bank.

20 hurt in post-polls clash in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

At least 20 people including a woman were injured, seven of them seriously, in a post-Union Parishad (UP) elections clash in Gopalganj district.

The clash erupted among supporters of two defeated chairman candidates of Sahapur UP in Gopalganj Sadar on Wednesday.

Two defeated chairman candidates are Bashudev Biswas and Ranajit Hira, according to eye witnesses. In the evening of February 19, on conclusion of polling supporters of Ranajit Hira exchanged hot words with supporters of Bashudev Biswas. At one stage they locked in a clash. Both the groups used lethal weapons.

Seven seriously injured persons were admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

They are Pramotha Hira, 60, Dipan Hira, 20, Pradip Hira, 25, Dipali, 18, Subhas Kar, 55, Onimesh, 33, and Pagal Hira, 30.

A case was filed with Gopalganj Police Station.

Candidate hurt in attack

UNB, Panchagarh

A Union Parishad (UP) chairman candidate was critically injured in an attack by his rivals at Debiganj on Monday night.

Police said unidentified criminals swooped on M Babul Hossain. They hit him with sharp weapons, while he was going to Sonahar from Debiganj.

He was rushed to Debiganj upazila health complex. From there he was shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition.

Poultry farming gains popularity

UNB, Narail

Poultry farming is gaining popularity among the youths in Narail.

A good number of educated youths are earning profit in this profession after receiving short and long-term training on poultry farming from the Youth Development and Livestock Departments.

The Youth Development and Livestock Departments are also providing financial assistance and other technical support for encouraging young men to set up poultry farms.

Besides, Bangladesh Krishi Bank and Sonali Bank are extending short-term loan to the people interested in poultry farming. Official sources said number of poultry farms increased in all the three upazilas where about 200 small and large poultry farms are being run with an annual turnover of Tk 3-4 crore.

A Livestock official said a man can easily earn Tk 3,000 to 6,000 within 35-40 days by rearing about 200 broilers at a farm. One can earn Tk 40,000 to 50,000 within a year by rearing about 200 layer variety in small farm.



PHOTO: STAR

(Left) A view of a flood ravaged important bridge on Gobindaganj-Dinajpur highway at Khalshi in Gaibandha. Fund shortage hampers its reconstruction work and (right) works on another 40.355-metre long RCC bridge. The highway communication faces a real threat now.



A 17-member delegation of Rover Scouts of the Scout Association of Japan (seen in picture) taking part in a workshop with 200 local Rovers and Scouts including Girl-in-Scouting in villages Chotobogi, Moupara and Chandantala under Amtali upazila and Chalitai, Urunia and Amtali under Sadar upazila in Barguna. The nine-day workshop which began on February 25 aims at creating awareness on different components of Primary Health Care (PHC) including conservation of nature.