

## NEWS SNAPS

**Two allegedly commit suicide**

**UNB, Narayanganj**  
Two people including an insane allegedly committed suicide by hanging themselves here on Wednesday night.

Police and locals said Mazeda Begum, wife of Farid Miah allegedly committed suicide over a family feud at Dhankunda in Siddhirganj, while insane Loknath Chandra Shaha, 35, committed suicide at village Sultansadi in Arahazar upazila.

**Work on fire station goes on**

**UNB, Panchagarh**  
Construction work of a fire service and civil defence station at Tetulia upazila headquarters is progressing fast.

Local Public Works Department (PWD) is implementing the work involving over Tk 1.21 crore. Official sources said 50 per cent work has already been completed and rest will be completed by June next.

**Four with Phensidyl arrested**

**UNB, Patuakhali**  
Police, in separate drives, arrested four persons and recovered 36 bottles of phensidyl from the town in three days till Tuesday.

Police said they arrested Badol, 25, Rezaul Khan, 26, and Kamrul Islam, 32, along with 20 bottles of phensidyl on Tuesday.

On Sunday, police and officials of Narcotics Control Department arrested shopkeeper Shadhon Chandra Ghosh, 35, from the Natun Bazaar area of the town along with 16 bottles of phensidyl. Separate cases were filed with the police.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

Female voters queue to cast vote at Bashira Primary School centre in Kalma union of Louhajang thana in Munshiganj.

**New candidates fare well in Magura UP elections****HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura**

New candidates fared well in 27 unions of four upazilas in Magura in the Union Parishad (UP) elections.

"We cast votes in favour of a new candidate, because we were frustrated at the performance of former chairman," said some voters at village Shabalgachha in Nakol union.

Elections to seven unions in Shalikhia upazila were held on January 26, while in six unions of Mohammadpur upazila polling was held on January 29. In seven unions of Sadar upazila elections

were held on February 2, in seven unions of Sreepur upazila polling was held on February 6.

Voters in four upazilas elected new candidates who contested for chairmanship in 22 unions. Only five incumbent chairmen were reelected.

"Electing new candidates, voters proved their consciousness in electing their representatives," said Advocate Shahina Akter, a human rights activist. People expect better service from them, she added.

Mokhlesur Rahman, a student leader, Abul Kalam Fakir, immediate past chairman of Balidia union

in Mohammadpur upazila and Basiruddin a community leader at village Alukdia in Bogia union of Sadar upazila echoed the same.

In seven unions of Shalikhia upazila, five new elected chairmen were Anisur Rahman Milton, Aminur Rahman, Abul Hossain, Ishaq Mallick and Amjad Hossain, while two reelected chairmen were Mozafer Hossain Tuku and Hafizur Rahman.

In six unions of Mohammadpur upazila, the new elected faces were Sayed Hafizur Rahman, Md Hiru Mian, Md Serajul Islam, Golam Rabbani, Zahangir Alam and Mahmood Hossain.

In seven unions of Sadar upazila, six new chairmen were Nurul Huq, Ali Ahmed Biswas, Anisuddin Sarder, Makiduzzaman, Mostul Azam Bachchu and Sazzad Hossain while the loan reelected chairman was Afzal Hossain.

In seven unions of Sadar upazila five new chairmen were Kari Nasimul Islam, Kari Mohiudul Alam, Md noor Alam and Mohammad Shajahan Mian, while two reelected chairmen were Badrul Alam Hiro and Mia Mohammad Samirul Islam.

**Untold stories of violation of electoral rules in Nilphamari****OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

Here are the untold stories of violation of electoral rules in Nilphamari.

The Union Parishad (UP) elections started in this district from January 26 and ended on March 12.

Some incidents have taught them to be more conscious and well-organised. They will not forget the activities of activists of certain political parties who created problems for voters this year.

Activists of Jamaat candidate Shamsul Islam Kabiraj obstructed last term's woman member Minu Ara of Khutamara from canvassing in favour of chairman candidate Nazrul Islam. They even manhan-

dled her near Tangonmari bazaar. Panic-stricken Minu did not dare to lodge any FIR with local police station in fear of further torture.

Jamaat candidate and his supporters tried to tarnish the image of Minu calling her a characterless woman, but the inhabitants of Tangonmari termed her as a good woman. This is because she took positive steps to safeguard the rights of women during her tenure as a UP member last year.

Another violator of electoral rules is Amjad Hossain Sarker, a ruling party member of parliament (MP) from Nilphamari-4 constituency. Defying rules, he campaigned in favour of a chairman candidate of Magura union in Kishoreganj upazila. At a meeting

at village Singer Gari in Magura union on February 17, Amzad threatened the electorate to stop local development work if they do not cast vote for his man Sohrab Hossain. The MP also tried to influence the workers of a major non-governmental organisation RDRS.

An Awami League (AL) leader Mosaddek Hossain also violated the election code of conduct. He was a chairman candidate of Gargram union in Kishoreganj Police Station. His musclemen besieged the Kakeyar par and Sontosher par areas where a major portion of electorates were hindus. Tapan Kumar Sarkar, a member of their community contested from the area.

Bipin Chandra, Narayan of Sukaru Para, Tarapada Roy, Wares Ali of Sontosher Para told The Daily Star that the musclemen of Mosaddeque-- Mostafa, Pedu, Saheb Ali, Rafidul-- created a reign of terror in the area. Despite complaints lodged with the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Kishoreganj, he did not take any action against the miscreants. Creating panic in the area Mosaddeque won the election on February 27.

Starting from Tk 5 lakh, the election expense of some candidates rose to even Tk 20 lakh. In the tobacco producing upazilas like Putimari and Garagram union, election expenses were even higher.

On average each chairman candidate spent about Tk 4,000 per day for buying 'muri' (fried rice), tea, sugar, betel nut, betel leaf and bid.

Almost all the candidates sought votes with promise for development, peaceful life, solution to local problems, amicable settlement of dispute evading courts and promising equal distribution of relief materials. The electorates also took into consideration high level contact of each candidate.

Electorates considered regionalism, family background, educational qualification and past record of welfare activities of candidates while casting vote in elections. Many considered that wealthy candidates would be free from corruption. A few voters took the political affiliation as a factor.

In places the turnout female voters was much more than male voters. They were mainly interested to elect the candidates who were contesting from women's reserved seats. The candidates who were vocal to safeguard their interests and stood against torture on women bagged maximum vote. Female workers voted those who promised to work for their safety.

Election workers Khodeza Khatun and Aklima Begum of Tupamari union, female voter Alekjan Bibi, Zulekha of Nitai union and day labourer Phulbanu, Hamida Bewa, all laid emphasis on their social security and value while casting votes.

**Separate incidents kill two in Pabna****UNB, Pabna**

Two people were killed in separate incidents in Pabna on Wednesday.

Police said armed miscreants picked up Majed Ali Biswas, 30, son of Hamid Biswas of Mongolgram in Ataikula upazila from his house and stabbed him indiscriminately. He died at Pabna General Hospital.

On the same day, another gang of miscreants killed Ayenuddin Khan, 41, at Dhalorchar in Bera upazila.

**Tributes to 'Palli Kobi' Jasimuddin****UNB, Faridpur**

The 27th anniversary of death of 'Palli Kobi' Jasimuddin was observed here on Saturday.

District administration and different socio-cultural organisations placed wreaths at the grave of the poet in the morning and offered fateha and munajat.

Local Shipakala Academy organised a discussion on the life and work of Jasimuddin at its auditorium.

The Ansaruddin High School authorities organised an art competition on the day. Jasimuddin established the high school after the name of his father Ansaruddin.

**Loan for the poor under goat rearing scheme****UNB, Panchagarh**

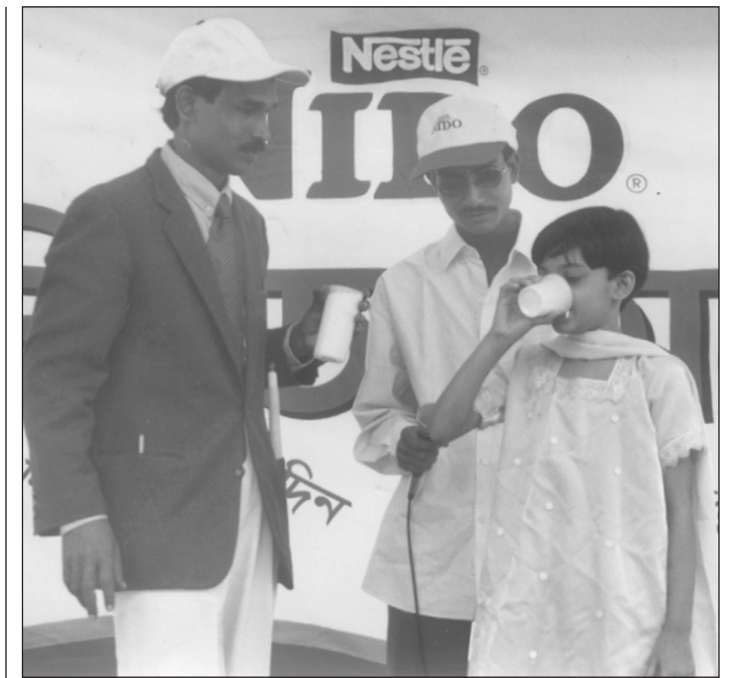
A massive loan disbursement programme has been launched in Panchagarh to alleviate poverty through goat rearing.

This is being done according to the poverty alleviation programme of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Nationalised banks have undertaken the programme for self-reliance of rural poor by generating self-employment opportunities.

Sonali, Janata and Rajshahi Krishi Unnyan Bank (RAKUB) are disbursing soft term loan among poor people.

District Administration in collaboration with nationalised banks took all-out measures to motivate poor people to rear goat for attaining self-reliance.



A magician performs at the Nido fair organised by Nestle Bangladesh Ltd in association with Unirent Ltd at Government Alia Madrassah playground in Sylhet on March 11. The fair, a festival of children and parents, was organised to make parents well-aware about nutrition and health issues of their children. Among others, Abul Hossain, deputy commissioner (DC), Sylhet, Maria Decker, Head of Marketing and Sales, Nestle, Aftab Uddin, Area Sales Manager, Nestle, Ayub Khondokar, Regional Sales Manager, Nestle and Ruhana Rahman, Brand Executive, Nido were present there.