

NEWS SNAPS

US invasion condemned

UNB, Faridpur
Thousands of people here staged demonstration in Faridpur town condemning the US-led invasion on Iraq on Saturday.

Anti War Citizen's Committee arranged the programmes protesting attack on an independent country ignoring the United Nations (UN) resolutions. A human chain was also formed and an effigy of US President Bush was burnt.

Education workshop in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur
A daylong workshop on 'The role of Upazila Education Officer (UEO) and Assistant Upazila Education Officer (AUEO)' was held at Primary Training Institute (PTI) auditorium here on Saturday.

Deputy director of Primary Education Directorate Hosne Ara Begum attended the workshop as chief guest which was presided over by District Primary Education Officer M Ayub Ali.

Work on community clinics completed

UNB, Brahmanbaria
Work on 65 community clinics has been completed in six upazilas.

Construction and maintenance unit of Health and Family Welfare Ministry implemented the project at a cost of TK 1.63 crore. Three lakh people will be benefited.

Seven newly-elected UP chairmen in Srimongal belong to Awami League

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Seven out of nine newly-elected chairmen of Srimongal upazila belong to Awami League (AL), while BNP backed two other elected chairmen.

No major untoward incidents had been reported during polling from March 1 to 3 in nine Union Parishads (UPs) in Srimongal upzila.

The upazila election office has

announced unofficially names of the newly-elected chairmen, general members and women members.

Elected chairmen are: Abu Sufian Chowdhury (Mirjapur UP), Md Cherag Ali (Bhunobeer UP), Ranadhir Deb (Stagaon UP), Makhon Lal Karmaker (Rajghat UP), Porag Baroi (Kalighat UP), Md Abdul Hye (Kalapur UP), Md Dudu Miah (Srimongal UP), Md Mamunur Rashid (Ashidron UP) and Hussain Md Abdullah (Sindur Khan UP).

Khan UP).

Md Mamunur Rashid of Ashidron UP has been elected for fourth consecutive term, while Ranadhir Deb of Stagaon UP became chairman for third term. In Srimongal UP no chairman candidate has been elected twice. In every election new faces have been elected. Newly elected chairman Hussain Md Abdullah is a lucky candidate who won the polls battle by only eight votes in Sindur Khan UP.

A martyr's widow waits for prosperous Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Niphamari

The widow of a Liberation War martyr still waits for the moment when her husband's dream of a prosperous Bangladesh will be fulfilled.

She is Jahanara Begum, Headmistress of Nilphamari Government Girls' School who lost her husband during the Liberation War in 1971. Her husband Md Shahadat Hossain was an employee of Saidpur Railway Workshop and also a law student of Rangpur Law College.

He played a pioneering role during the non-cooperation movement. But his activities enraged "Biharis." So, they enlisted him in



Shaheed Shahadat Hossain

the hit list. Shahadat went into hiding after the crackdown of Pakistan army. "Bihari" contractors Ahad, Hunaer and another Bengalee collaborator Abu Taher of the railway workshop were out to locate him. Finally they dragged him out of his hideout and stabbed him with deadly weapons. The killers fled the scene chanting "Pakistan Zindabad" slogan.

Shahadat's wife Jahanara Begum and her father traced him and took him to nearby Saidpur Railway Hospital. But in the name

of operation a "Bihari" surgeon killed him in the operation theatre. Afterwards, Pakistani collaborators ransacked his house in Saidpur railway city and looted all the belongings.

Following his burial at Saidpur, Jahanara and her family members fled to Rangpur. Jahanara told this correspondent that her conjugal life lasted for only four years. After the independence she took up the noble profession of teaching. In heart she cherished the golden memory of her husband. At present she lives alone in a rented house in Niphamari, while her two daughters got married. After 1971 she did not go to Saidpur where her husband is sleeping.

She told this correspondent that her husband's killers remained unpunished.

About the brutality of "Biharis," she informed The Daily Star that just after the crackdown of Pakistan army "Biharis" renamed Saidpur "New Bihar" and threw scores of Bangalee workers in the iron melting burner.

30 UP members elected unopposed in Madaripur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Thirty Union Parishad (UP) members have been elected unopposed in four upazilas.

Of them, 13 in Shibchar, eight in Kalkini, one in Rojoir and eight in Sadar upazila.

In Shibchar upazila, Abu Howlader of Ward No 2, Abu Malek of Ward No 3, Karim Matubbar of Ward No 9, Amena Khatun of 4, 5 and 6 reserved seats in Banarkhola union, Insanuddin Bepari of Ward No 6 in Pachchar union, Bayejit Mollah of Ward No 2 in Shibchar Sadar union, Masud Chakder of Ward No 4, Abul Kalam Chakder of Ward No 8 of Bhandari Kandi union, Raja Mia Bepari of Ward No 7, Parul Akhter of 7,8 and 9 reserved seats of Kathal Bari union, Nur Mohammad Bepari of Ward No 7 of Char Janayat union and Nahid Akhter for women reserved seats no 4,5 and 6 in Kutubpur union have been elected unopposed.

In Kalkini upazila, Abdus Salam Sarder of Ward No 9 in Bashgari union, Abul Bashar of Ward No 8 in Laxmipur union, Alamgir Majhi of Ward No 6 in Nabogram union, Abul Bashar Fakir of Ward No 3 in

Kazi Bakai union and Delwar Hossain of Ward No 9 have been elected unopposed.

In Rojoir upazila, Golam Mostafa Matubbar of Ward No 2 in Pikepara union, Abdul Halim Sharif of Ward No 1 in Pairpur union, Abdul Kadir Matubbar of Ward No 3 in the same union, Mobarak Bapari of Ward No 4 in the above union, Idris Shikder of Ward No 5 in Rasti union, Nurjahan of 7,8 and 9 women's reserved seats in Kunia union, Md Bachchu Bepari of Ward No 4 in Bahadurpur union, Aminur Rahman Bepari of Ward No 4 in Kendue union have been elected unopposed.

New executive body of Moulvibazar Bar Association

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Election to Moulvibazar Bar Association was held recently at the association's auditorium.

Polling was held for eight out of 11 posts of the executive body. Because candidates in three other posts were elected unopposed.

Office bearers are: President-Sunil Kumar Das, vice president (VP) Rezaur Rahman, general secretary (GS) Ashraf Uddin Mintu, assistant general secretary (AGS) Momunur Rashid (unopposed), assistant secretary (library) Qumruzzaman (unopposed), assistant secretary (sports and culture) Syed Mainuddin (unopposed). Members Roma Kanta Das Gupta, Aminul Islam, Amullya Kumar Ghose, Md Maynuddin and Rudrajit Ghose.

A total of 166 out of 178 voters cast their votes. Two panels contested, while the newly-elected president is a BNP leader.

Bid to rape girl foiled

UNB, Panchagarh

A perverted teenage boy tried to seduce a little girl in Debiganj upazila on Thursday.

Police said the 14-year-old boy Ayub Ali, son of Adam Ali of village Purba Vaulaganj tried to rape the 2-and-a-half-year old girl after entering her house in the afternoon. After hearing the screaming of the victim, local people rushed to the spot, but he managed to flee. A case was filed with the police.

Jessore board chairman visits Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Professor ABM Sattar, chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Jessore on Wednesday visited the Saikupa centre of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

He visited the centre following a rumour of leakage of question papers which he termed to be false.

Six SSC examinees hurt in Rangamati road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Six Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinees were injured when driver of a microbus lost control over steering and fell into a roadside ditch in Monoghar area of Rangamati town on Thursday morning.

All were on way to examination centres, police said.

Of the injured, Animesh Chakma, 17, and Sunil Kanti Chakma, 17, were shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) immediately after their admission to Rangamati General Hospital. Other injured named Projashish Chakma, 17, Shawlila Tanchangya, 18, Kanta Moni Chakma, 16 and Anamika Chakma, 18, were released after first aid treatment, hospital sources said. The driver managed to escape. A case was filed with Kotwali police station.

Touchstone statue recovered in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A touchstone statue of 'Krishna' worth about Taka one crore was recovered from a village in Gaibandha on March 20.

Police recovered the statue from village Burma Akub in Gobindaganj upazila. Police raided the house of Abdul Hye, a villager of Burma Akub and recovered the 21-inch touchstone image weighing 9 kg from a bunker of his room.

Two persons were arrested and a case was filed with Gobindaganj thana.

REMINISCENCE



A playing baby girl charms her parents. This snap was taken 32 years ago when her father was alive. She became an orphan during the Liberation War. She cannot remember her loving father well who now exists only in portrait. Captain RAM Khairul Bashar and all other martyrs come alive when Independence Day arrives. We remember all of them with gratitude.

Overloaded trucks damaging roads in 10 districts

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Roads and highways in 10 districts of southwestern region are being damaged because of plying of overloaded trucks and lorries.

Sources in Roads and Highways (R&H) Department, Khulna, South Bengal transport owners' & workers' association and Khulna divisional office of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) revealed that the plying trucks carried load more than twice the capacity.

A five-ton truck carries 12 to 15 tons of goods under the very nose of the authorities concerned. Experts said overloaded trucks caused huge damage to roads and highways. On-duty policemen did not take action against the violators of law.

Sayedur Rahman, a truck owner in Magura said because of over-

loading they had to pay the police personnel an additional amount of money.

Truck owners began to overload their vehicles between 1992 and 1996 when import of TATA and HINO trucks increased. Permitted load-limit for each truck was set at 11 tons. This includes the vehicle's weight. But as the drivers came to know that these vehicles were able to carry as much as 20 tons, they began to ignore the restriction.

Former Awami League (AL) government formed a steering committee for 'Axle Load'. One of the recommendations of the committee was to set up 'weigh bridges' at different points. But the recommendation is yet to be implemented.

"Government should take step to set up 'weigh bridge' at important parts of southwestern region," said a high official of R&H

Department to this correspondent on condition of not to be named. "Magura is one of the important places for 'weigh bridge' as it is the doorway to southwestern districts from Dhaka," he added.

SM Badrul Alam, an expert on highway engineering told The Daily Star that highways were built with a calculation of equivalent standard axle load of 8.416 tons.

When a two-axle truck passes by, the road is instantly damaged. He opined that the government should introduce multi-axle vehicles which can carry much more cargo without causing damage to roads and culverts.

Zahidul Islam, a transport owner in Jhenidah told this correspondent that the government should come forward with plans to immediately stop overloading of vehicles.