

NEWS SNAPS

**Agricultural fair begins**

**UNB, Rajshahi**  
A four-day district agricultural fair-2003 began here at T&T Primary School premises on Friday.  
Post and Telecommunication Minister Barrister M Aminul Haque inaugurated the fair organised by Department Agricultural Extension (DAE). A total of 28 stalls have been set up in the fair where different species of seeds, agricultural products, modern technologies and rare varieties of plants have been put on display.

**Current nets seized**

**UNB, Jhalakati**  
Current nets worth Tk 2 lakh were seized from the rivers of Bishkhala and Jangalia in Rajapur upazila on Friday.  
Upazila administration consisting of police, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and officials of Fisheries department seized the nets. The nets were burnt to ashes. None was arrested.

**LGED constructing new bridge**

**MADARIPUR**  
A bridge is being constructed at a cost of Tk 90 lakh over the Palordi River of Madaripur in the current fiscal.  
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the 200-metre long and 10-metre wide bridge with the financial assistance from Japan.

**Oath taking ceremony of Nagarkanda UP chairmen**

**UNB, Faridpur**  
The oath taking ceremony of the newly-elected chairmen and members of 17 unions in Nagarkanda upazila (UP) was held at the deputy commissioner's (DC) office here on Thursday.  
Deputy commissioner (DC) Jalal Ahmed administered the oath to the newly-elected public representatives with upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Abul Kalam Shamsuddin in the chair. Superintendent of police (SP) SM Hafizur Rahman and BNP leader KM Jahangir were also present.

**Mushroom growth of unregistered clinics**

Magura citizens lodge complaints to Health Secretary

**HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura**  
There has been a mushroom growth of unregistered clinics in Magura.  
People of Magura have lodged a complaint to the Health Secretary against unauthorised clinic owners protesting their harmful activities.  
They have sent copies of their complaint to local journalists.  
Three municipal commissioners Golam Sarwar, Kutubuddin and Mir Shahidul Islam Babu along with some conscious citizens of the town signed the petition where they mentioned various irregularities being carried on by unauthorised clinic owners.  
At least 22 clinics are now in operation in Magura.  
Of the total, only six clinics are registered, while the rest are unregistered. Unregistered clinics have no

trained doctor, nurse or anesthetist to perform operation.  
Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, a leading businessman in the town told The Daily Star that in absence of monitoring, some unscrupulous people were running illegal 'clinic business' at liberty. They posted agents to lure patients from different hospitals and health complexes to their clinics promising better treatment facilities.  
"These clinics follow no rule. They see patients as business prospect", said a renowned physician in the town.  
He said, "It is not possible for a patient or their attendant to know whether the clinics are registered or not. So in most cases, patients are taken for a ride."  
There are numerous allegations of malpractice and gross negligence of

so-called doctors who administer wrong medicine leading to permanent disability of patients, damage to vital organs, paralysis and even death.  
"My wife died only two months back due to gross negligence of management and doctors of Hasina Clinics. She was admitted there in an advanced stage for operation. But she died on the bed of the Operation Theatre (OT)," informed Saifullah of village Parmanduuli in Sadar upazila this correspondent.  
Common allegations of sufferers against these clinics are miserable condition of OTs and post-operative rooms, use of non-sterilised surgical instruments and apparatus, usage of lanterns or candles in OTs, treatment by untrained doctors and nurses, use of previously used syringes, blood bags and administering below stan-

dard medicine.  
"Many deaths have been reported in private clinics over the years because of the factors," said Marharul Huq, a college teacher in Magura.  
A medical officer in Magura Sadar Hospital told this correspondent on condition of anonymity that the department concerned do not take action against the unscrupulous people.  
A senior member of Magura district unit of Bangladesh Medical Association further told The Daily Star that he had seen many private clinics here who were violating the norms of medical practice.  
According to him inspectors of the concerned department are corrupt. In return for bribe, they allow illegal clinics to carry on their business.

**Youth beaten to death in Bagerhat**

**UNB, Bagerhat**

A young man was beaten to death and his two brothers were injured critically by their rivals at Kumarkhali in Morelganj upazila on Friday.  
Police said Kabir Chaprash, Kamal Chaprash and Kawser Chaprash of

village Khontakata in Sharonkhola upazila were manhandled at Kumarkhali while going to Morelganj by trawler.  
They were rushed to Morelganj Health Complex where Kabir Chaprash, 32, died after admission.

Kamrul Chaprash, another brother of the victims, filed a case with Morelganj thana accusing 10 persons. Police could not arrest anyone as yet.  
Some villagers of Kumarkhali said they beat three brothers for stealing bricks of road.

**Steps to check cheating in SSC exams**



PHOTOS: AKM MOHSIN

Some bold steps taken by State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque to check cheating in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations deserve appreciation. (Top left) The state minister plans and instructs the pilot of a helicopter, carrying him to various examination centres, about his surprise visits, while (right) examinees at Muladi centre in Barisal hail minister for his sincere efforts. (Bottom left) A Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) brings out copies from a candidate from Koruna Mokamia Alia Madrassah in Borguna, (right) the state minister hands over Tk 10,000 to Shafiqul Islam, an invigilator at Muladi centre for his success in checking cheating in the examination centre. The state minister visited different centres of Jhalokathi, Barisal and Barguna on Saturday.

**Price spiral of onion in Madaripur**

**UNB, Madaripur**

Price of onion has shot up in Madaripur as cold wave and fog damaged huge quantity of the commodity in the current season.  
Each kilogram (kg) of onion is being sold at Tk 16 kg in wholesale market of Pura bazaar, but locals said that they bought the same quality of onion at Tk 6 per kg only a fortnight back.  
Farmers of Shibchar upazila said they brought 1,750 hectares of land

under onion cultivation, but the onion plants were damaged extensively by continuous cold spell that swept over the country during the late winter.  
Farmers hoped that the price of onion would come down when 'dana' variety of onion, which is still on the field, will be harvested.  
Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) hoped that 17,000 metric tons of 'dana' variety of onion would be produced in Madaripur in the current season.

**Brick kilns threaten mango farming in Chapainawabganj**

**UNB, Chapainawabganj**

Huge green mangoes are damaged every year owing to poisonous black smoke coming from the brick kilns that sprang up haphazardly in Chapainawabganj, famous for mango.  
Mangoes are the main cash crop here where about 16,000 hectares of land are brought under mango farming producing huge amount of the tasty and juicy fruits every year.  
Mango cultivation is facing serious problems as brick kilns have been set up near the mango orchards without the prior approval of environment department.  
Agriculturists said a disease known as 'blacktip' due to emission of black

smoke is affecting mango adversely. The disease makes black scar on the lower part of green mango, which later make it sour and unsuitable for consumption. Hence, the growers are facing huge financial loss every year.  
In a frantic bid to solve the problem, the growers time and again submitted memorandum to the local administration, took out processions and even went to court demanding demolition of the brickyards in and around their orchards. But their attempts failed to bring any positive result creating frustration among them.  
Local people further alleged that owners are using firewood in their brick kilns defying the government ban.

**Newly-elected UP chairman stabbed**

**UNB, Jamalpur**

A newly-elected chairman of Nangla Union Parishad (UP) in Melandoho upazila was stabbed indiscriminately at Betmari Bailey bridge on Thursday.  
Locals said a gang of miscreants swooped on chairman Kismat Pasha

and chopped him with sharp weapon when he was going to Melandoho upazila riding a motorcycle.  
He was first admitted to upazila health complex and later shifted to Dhaka following deterioration of his condition. A case was filed.