

Here and There

Plan to electrify 396 upazilas

Brigadier Mohammad Golam Mowla, Chairman of Rural Electrification Board (REB) said the board plans to bring electricity to 396 upazilas of the country by this year, reports BSS.

During the last 11 years, REB succeeded in reaching electricity to over 91 hundred villages in 233 upazilas under its rural electrification programme. Rural homes, irrigation pumps, small and medium industries and village hats are getting electricity through 36 Palli Bidyut Samities (PBS) spread throughout the country, he said.

The REB Chairman was speaking on the second day of the three-day workshop to review the achievement of performance target (PTA) of PBS. The workshop, first of its kind in the country, is reviewing

the PTA of the first six months of the current fiscal year for 33 out of 36 PBS.

Brig. Mowla underlined the importance of accountability for programmes like rural electrification which involves people. He said continuous review of the performances of PBS would help individual samities but collectively the programme functions better.

Describing fixing of the PTA and its review as unique event in the sub-continent for similar organisation, the REB Chairman said besides improving the overall performances, it would help concerned persons identify problems for taking corrective measures.

Sunday's session was addressed, among others, by Syed Sajedul Karim, member (finance), Nazibur Rahman, member (engineering) and M. A. Wadud, member (PBS and Training) of REB. Presidents of different PBS put up various problems faced by the samities and demanded board's intervention to resolve those.

The workshop is being attended by President and General Managers of the Samities.

Syed Sajedul Karim said Palli Bidyut Samities had been divided into two categories and different set of targets had been fixed for them. He said 18 old samities were given 17 targets, while 15 comparatively new samities were given five targets.

NAP (B) to solve problems in light of Rabubiat

Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP-Bhashani) Monday pledged to establish a democratic society free from oppression and exploitation, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, in the city, NAP-Bhashani Convenor Golam Kabir said, followers of late Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani would continue their struggle until the lot of peasants and labourers could be improved.

Alema Bhashani, widow of the late leader who founded the NAP, and NAP-Bhashani leader Syed Irfanul Bari were present at the press conference.

Describing the ideologies of the party, NAP-Bhashani convenor said his party would seek solution of all national problems in Parliament in the light of Rabubiat -- there is only one Creator and all are His creations.

NAP-Bhashani has given nomination to 31 candidates in 13 districts for the February 27 parliamentary elections.

In a separate press conference, Monday, Mujibur Rahman-led NAP-Bhashani announced a 15-point election manifesto pledging a corruption-free society.

Advocate Mujibur Rahman, a contestant from Dhaka-9 constituency, said he was the lone candidate of his party in next month's polls and described it a 'symbolic participation'.



A scene from play 'Raja Mantrir Sangbad', staged by Dhaka Theatre at the Central Shaheed Minar premises on Tuesday in commemoration of the 1952 language martyrs. — Star Photo

Dateline Chittagong

Price of essentials up

CHITTAGONG, Feb 3: Price of essential commodities have been spiralling upward since last three months, reports BSS.

Most of the imported goods are in short supply while locally produced ones have registered increase in prices. Prices of baby food have increased. Coarse, medium and fine varieties of rice sell at Taka 12, Taka 14 and Taka 15 and above per Kg respectively. Only three weeks ago prices of these three varieties of rice were Taka 10, Taka 11 and Taka 14.

Price of flour has also increased by Taka two per Kg and now sells at Taka 13 and 14. Prices of crushed wheat has also recorded similar rise.

Pulses have registered a rise of Taka 2 and Taka four per Kg selling at Taka 26 to 40. Edible oils of different brands sell at Taka 10 to 20 percent above the earlier prices.

Knowledgeable sources said that some unscrupulous businessmen were manipulating prices of essential commodities to earn extra profit taking advantage of Gulf war. There is no apparent reason for increase in the prices of essentials as yet, said the sources, adding actions against the hoarders and price manipulators are needed.

culture and traditions of the tribals, reports BSS.

In a statement here, they demanded immediate repatriation of the tribals from Indian refugee camps and their proper rehabilitation in the hill tract area and constitution of a national committee to identify the problems of the hill tracts.

They also called upon the government to take necessary steps to ensure security of voters irrespective of caste and creed.

One killed in road accident

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed in a road accident at Sanir Akhra on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway Monday.

The unidentified man aged about 22 was hit by a coaster and died at Mitford Hospital where he was rushed after the accident.

Release of NAP GS demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Landless Rickshaw Puller Workers Federation and Bangladesh Homeless Rickshaw Puller Welfare Society on Tuesday in separate statements demanded immediate release of Sekandar Ali, General Secretary of National Awami Party (NAP-Bhashani).

The statements signed by M A Hamidul Haque, Atiqur Rahman, Abdul Jalil and Md. Nurul Islam said Sekandar on February 2 led a rickshaw procession on VIP road defying the law.

Revolver recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) on Sunday recovered one .22 re-

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Bar association for Gulf war truce

A general meeting of the Supreme Court Bar Association was held Tuesday in the bar premises. Dr. Kamal Husain presided, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed the situation that arose out of the conflict in the Gulf and urged the belligerents for an immediate ceasefire. It also urged US-led coalition to withdraw all foreign troops from Arab soil and resolve the dispute through arbitration by the Arabs themselves.

Attack on PG Ameet condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Pharmacy Students Association (BPSA) condemned the attack on the general meeting of the Pharmacy Graduates Association (PGA), says a press release.

Dateline Khulna

Former AL Secy joins BNP

Elect honest persons in polls : Jamaat

Our Staff Correspondent

addressing a public meeting at Deana Crescent Bazar.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Messrs Muniruzzaman, Sheikh Kamrul Alam and Jahangir Kabir.

Moulana Yusuf cautioned the people against the hypocrisy and falsehood of a particular political party during whose tenure of administration people had to share food with dogs from the dustbins. He urged the people not to be misled by the tall talks of that party.

Moulana Yusuf also said that if voted to power in the coming election, Jamaat would introduce Islamic Labour Law, interest-free agricultural loans and repeal all black laws. He called upon the people to cast their vote in favour of Jamaat-e-Islami which stands for upholding implementation of Islamic rule and can bring welfare to the teeming millions of the country.

BSS adds: Khulna experienced unusually heavy off-season rainfall twice during the last twentyfour hours of Monday.

The first spell of rain accompanied by moderate wind speed lashed Khulna city Sunday evening. The second spell which began in the early hours of Monday was heavier and continued for over two hours. A total of 66 millimetre rain fell during the period.

Some parties trying to make polls arms show: Bashar

By Staff Correspondent

The Workers' Party President and Five Party leader, Abul Bashar said that all should abide by the code of conduct announced by the Election Commission. In order to make the parliament elections successful.

He was addressing a meeting at Amtala in his constituency at Raipur on Monday.

Rose festival Feb 15

A rose festival organised by the Bangladesh National Rose Society, will be held on February 15, at Women's Sports Complex, Dhanmondi, reports BSS.

Prof. M. Moniruzzaman Mia, Vice-Chancellor, of the Dhaka University, will inaugurate the show, which will remain open for the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Daily Star

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The third and fourth class employees of the Suhrawardy Hospital (General Section) held a rally in city on Tuesday, demanding removal of the Project Director Dr. Jahanara Rabbil. They went on indefinite strike since Monday last. — Star Photo

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YEARLY : Taka - 1000.00 (Including Postage)

HALF YEARLY : Taka - 525.00 "

QUARTERLY : Taka - 265.00 "

Please Contact :
Circulation Manager
The Daily Star
28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000
G.P.O. Box No. 3257

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