

## National

## News snaps

## Need for eradication of illiteracy suggested

TANGAIL, Feb 24: Abdul Mannan, MP has stressed the need for eradication of illiteracy from society, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest in a meeting held on February 11 at local Bhasani Hall to form the district committee for the implementation of literacy for all programme. Mannan called upon all for cooperation to make the programme a success. Abdus Sattar Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Tangail explained different aspects of the programme. District level officers, thana nirbukhi officers.

Heads of educational institutions and chairmen and members of union parishes were present in the meeting. A committee with State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abul Hasan Chowdhury as the chief patron, all MPs of the district as the patrons and the deputy commissioner as the president was formed in the meeting.

## Science Week concludes

MUNSHIGANJ, Feb 24: Shegufa Yasmeen, MP, underscored the need for providing young students with avenues for developing their latest innovative and inventive genius for the welfare of society, reports BSS.

The MP was making a speech as chief guest at the concluding function of a 3-day long science fair held in the local high school premises in observance of the 21st National Science and Technology Week.

Nikunj Behari Nath, Deputy Commissioner of Munshiganj, presided over the function while Shegufa Yasmeen gave away the prizes among the winners of different competitions arranged on the occasion. Ten educational institutions and two science clubs of the district took part in the fair where 40 science-based projects were exhibited.

## Man roasted alive

MADRIPUR, Feb 24: A man was roasted alive and property worth about Tk 3 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Baro-doley in Shibchar thana of the district, police said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Kashem Bepari, 35, local people said the fire originated from a kitchen and soon engulfed the adjacent area last week. Goods worth about 50 maunds were burnt to ashes in the incident.

## AL activist attacked

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 24: Awami League (AL) activist and former president of CSD Godown Handling Workers' Union Nazem Ahmed Sardar was severely injured when three of his close associates attacked him near Baikali Cinema Hall Tuesday.

They fired shots at him and chopped off his legs and hands. His condition remained precarious in Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) till writing of the report.

The CSD labor leader also escaped another attempt on his life in August last year.

## Urs Sharif concludes

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Feb 24: The four-day long annual Urs Sharif of Hazrat Khawia Enayetpuri (R) at Biswa Zaker Monjil at Atash, 24 km off the district headquarters.

Thousands of devotees from home and abroad came to Biswa Zaker Monjil to take part in the Urs Sharif. Milad Mahfil, special prayer and discussion meeting have been arranged on the occasion.

## Minister opens newly built pry school

JESSORE, Feb 24: Education Minister ASHK Sadique inaugurated on Wednesday the newly constructed Shrikanta Nagar Primary School, reports BSS.

This is one of 10 primary schools constructed by the Facilities Department of the Education Ministry in Jessori sadar at a cost of Taka 50 lakh. The education minister in his speech said that congenial atmosphere in educational institution is a must for the overall development of the country. The minister urged the teachers and students to be more responsible in providing every child proper education.

## Training on soil preservation

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 24: A ten-day long training on soil preservation, seed production and preservation, vegetable cultivation and fertilizer use concluded here recently in 13 thanas of the district, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, 5550 cultivators, both male and female, participated in the training course. The experts of AED concurred the training courses.

The 10 thanas are: Kishoreganj sadar, Karimganj, Tarail, Pakundia, Hossainpur, Katiadi, Bajipur, Kuliarchar, Bhairab and Nikli.

## Orientation meeting

JAMALPUR, Feb 24: An orientation meeting for the newly appointed UP chairmen and members of the district was held at Poura Public Hall recently, reports UNB.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, the meeting was attended by State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosarrif as chief guest and State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Mohammad Nurul Islam as special guest. In his speech Rashed Mosarrif urged the elected chairmen and members to work for the welfare of their voters as well as for the welfare of the country. The State Minister for land said for the first time, provision for spending one per cent of the revenue income from land will be introduced for the development of union parishes. Some 63 chairmen, 594 male and 198 female members attended orientation meeting.

## Immortal Ekushey observed

CHAGALNAYA (Feni), Feb 24: The Immortal Ekushey was observed here at Chagalanayna Pilot High School in a befitting manner on Saturday, reports BSS.

The programme began with placing of wreaths at the local Shaheed Minar at dala bungalow to pay homage to the martyrs. A discussion meeting was held in the school auditorium in the morning. Presided over by the headmaster of the school, the Thana Nirbukhi Officer was the chief guest. Later a cultural function was held.

## Mental hospital patient commits suicide

PABNA, Feb 24: A female patient of Pabna Mental Hospital allegedly committed suicide in a hospital's bathroom on Monday morning, reports BSS.

She was identified as Ila Rani Das, 30, wife of Debobrata Das of Zamnagar in Bagatpara thana of Natore district. Police said, on information, they recovered the body of Ila from the bathroom where it was hanged from the shower. Ila Rani was admitted to the hospital on February 9. An unnatural death case filed with the police.

## Phensidyl recovered: One held

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Feb 24: A contingent of Madhukhali police led by SI Md Lutfor Rahman in a raid conducted recently at Ganderia on Dhaka-Khulna highway recovered 170 bottles of phensidyl from a private car and arrested its driver Zainul Abedin, according to police source.

A case was lodged with Madhukhali thana in this connection.

## Boy killed in road mishap

PATUAKHALI, Feb 24: A boy was crushed under the wheels of a passenger bus near Katikpasha on Patuakhali-Barisal road recently, reports BSS.

Local people said the boy, identified as Shahidul, 8, met the accident on Saturday last when he tried to cross the road. Police seized the vehicle but the driver managed to escape. A case was lodged with Dumki police in this connection.

## Girl violated

MAGURA, Feb 24: A minor girl was violated by two young men at Baraipara village in Sripur Thana of the district on Sunday, reports BSS.

Police said the girl, 12, was going to the neighbouring Tupi-para village when the two culprits, identified as Jewel and Irfan, abducted her. They took her to a house and violated her one after another. Later, police on a tip-off, rescued the girl from the house of one Akber in village Sripur and sent her to the hospital for medical test. A case was filed with the police.

## Crushing on in Darsana Sugar Mills

CHUADANGA, Feb 24: The Darsana Sugar Mills has produced 9,814 tonnes of sugar till Sunday during its 100 days of crushing of sugarcane in the current season, reports BSS.

The mill crushed 1,09,817 tonnes of sugarcane. The production in the mill is now going on in full swing. The mill has fixed up a target to produce 10,725 tonnes of sugar in the current season by crushing 1,30,000 tonnes of sugarcane. The production in the mill will be continued till the first week of the next month.

## Boro farming target won't be achieved in Sunamganj

SUNAMGANJ, Feb 24: Farmers feared that the target of Boro cultivation in the district would not be achieved during the current season mainly due to want of irrigation facilities, reports UNB.

Sources in Agriculture Extension Department said the production target of paddy was fixed at 3.26 lakh metric tons, but there might be a shortfall of over 72,000 metric tons worth Tk 80 crore.

There was no rainfall in time, said the farmers adding that the water-bodies like haors, canals and baors are running short of water.

This has created serious problem for irrigation facilities in the Boro fields threatening production shortfall in the district which is traditionally a surplus area. Officials said they had expected food surplus of about 2 lakh metric tons here this season.

Almost all the 124 haors in the district are running short of water leaving a large area of land without irrigation.

The farmers said pest attack in different areas of the district has created concern among the farmers. They said they could not collect good quality seeds due to the pest attack during the last season.

## Roads, bridges in bad shape in Khagrachhari

From Our Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 24: Some roads and at least 20 bridges and culverts of the district have become unfit for vehicular traffic.

Everyday hundreds of buses, trucks and other vehicles are passing through the damaged roads, bridges and culverts with high risks. The roads are: Khagrachhari-Panchhali, Khagrachhari-Dhinginala, Khagrachhari-Ramgati, Khagrachhari-Chittagong and Khagrachhari-Feni road. The roads are in need of immediate repair and reconstruction.

Innumerable potholes have developed on the aforementioned roads.

Meanwhile, 20 bridges and culverts are also in deplorable condition. The bridges which are in dilapidated condition are Matiranga bridge, Manikchhari bridge, Nakupa bridge and Guimara bridge.

## Free eye camp in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Feb 24: A 8-day long free eye camp was organised jointly by World Vision of Bangladesh and Bangladesh National Society for the Blinds (BNSB), Sherpur district branch at GKPM, Government High School premises recently.

A total of 882 eye patients were given necessary treatment while 147 eye patients were operated upon free of cost in the eye camp.

Earlier Md Atiur Rahman Atique, MP, inaugurated the eye camp in a simple ceremony recently. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by sadar TNO Md Asadul Islam and the eye camp was volunteered by eye specialists of Bangladesh Blind Welfare Samity and Sherpur District Blind Welfare Association.

## Hartal in 2 Rajshahi thanas

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 24: A dawn to dusk hartal was observed in charhata and Bagha thanas peacefully on Sunday at the call of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The hartal was called to protest the joining of Dr Muhammad Alauddin, a member of Parliament with Awami League Government. He was elected from the area as a BNP candidate.

All modes of vehicles were off the roads and all kinds of shops and business establishments remained closed during the hartal period.

Several incidents of chase and counter-chase occurred at Bagha thana headquarters area but no one was injured.

BNP held meetings and declared Dr Alauddin unwanted persons in the area.

## 3 nominated for Jasim Foundation Gold Medal Award

FARIDPUR, Feb 24: Three eminent personalities have been nominated for Jasim Foundation Gold Medal Award '98 for outstanding contribution in their respective fields, reports BSS.

The nominees for the award are industrialist Alhaj M Azizullah, Chairman of Aziz Group of Industries (Aziz Pipes Ltd), educationist prof Md Lutfur Rahman, Director of Secondary and Higher Education and Md Shahidul Hassan, Superintending Engineers, LGED.

The nominations for the Award were announced at a meeting of the foundation, chaired by AFM Abdul Huda Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur and President of the Foundation, said a press release.

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will handover the gold medal along with a certificate to the recipients on February 28 at the inaugural function of Jasim Palli Mela '98, the release added.

Crushing on in Darsana Sugar Mills

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MAYMENSINGH: A mourning procession led by Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof Dr Muhammad Hossain proceeding towards Central Shaheed Minar of the university on Shaheed Day.

— Star photo

## Train passengers woes multiply

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Feb 24: The train passengers of Chandpur-Laksham, Chandpur-Chittagong, Chandpur-Sylhet, Chandpur-Haziganj sections are facing immense sufferings due to irregular train services, unhygienic conditions of railway stations and negligence of the railway staffers.

Most of the trains run in these routes irregularly. According to passengers, the number of trains as well as compartments are inadequate. Small number of compartments in each train can not cope with heavy rush of passengers. Sometimes trains run without first and second class compartments creating great inconvenience to upper class

have no proper sitting arrangement. Sometimes waiting rooms are found locked.

The trains do not maintain timetables. The arrival and departure of trains are often late by two to three hours. As a result the passengers particularly those who attend schools, colleges and offices are worst sufferers. It is alleged that some corrupt railway employees are allowing passengers to travel without tickets. It is also alleged, booking counters start functioning just a few minutes before the arrival of trains. As a result many passengers fail to purchase tickets on time. The inter-city service train between Chandpur and Chittagong runs with heavy crowd everyday. Passengers even cannot purchase tickets two or three days earlier. Tickets are sold in black market. Many railway lands in Kalibari court station and main station are being grabbed by unauthorised persons. It is alleged many railway lands are leased out illegally. Many shops, hotels and restaurants are being constructed in railway stations causing inconveniences to passengers.

Most of the compartments are not kept clean. Sometimes water and light are not available in the toilets. Doors of many toilets are found broken. Sometimes compartments have no electricity and fans. In most railway stations there is no waiting room for upper class passengers. Toilets in the stations are dirty. Those are not cleaned regularly. Waiting rooms in most of the stations

are not being controlled completely due to various reasons which include non-cooperation of local district administration, other law enforcing agencies and people, shortage of adequate number of Border Out Posts (BOPs), manpower and vehicles.

Citing an example BDR sources said, Mazar Diar is a big land on the Padma river bed near border in Rajshahi district, but there is no BOP camp in the area.

Mahananda Bridge Task Force at Chhainawabganj has been withdrawn recently by the decision of the concerned district administration which was hampering the smuggling control activities.

The BDR authorities have sought full cooperation from all concerned in checking border related crimes in the region.

## Notice of RHD Inviting Tender

1. Tender Notice No	201 BRD of 1997-98.
2. Name of work	Earth work in road embankment at different KM on different road under Road Division, Barisal during 1997-98.
3. Estimated amount	As per Group list.
4. Earnest money	As per Group list.
5. Time allowed	As per Group list.
6. Eligibility of contractor	As per Group list.
7. Name of office where tender documents will be available	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barisal/ Patuakhali/Bhola/Pirojpur/Planning Division (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Barisal/Jhalakathi/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Barisal during office hours on all working days. No tender form will be sold on the opening date of tender.
8. Last date of selling of tender	Up to 5:00 PM on 20.11.1404B/4.3.98E.
9. Name of office where tender bids will be received in sealed cover	Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal/ Superintending Engineer, RHD, Barisal Road Circle, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barisal/ Patuakhali/Bhola/Pirojpur.
10. Last date & time of receiving tender bids in sealed cover	Up to 12:30 PM on 21.11.1404B/5.3.98E.
11. Date & time of recording tender bids in sealed cover	At 12:45 PM on 21.11.