

News snaps

21 arrested on various charges

RANGAMATI, Feb 10: Rangamati police in a special raid have arrested 27 persons on various charges between January 31 and February 5, reports BSS.

Police also have recovered 12 light weapons from Garzantali area and have raided three country wine making factories in Vedvedi area. In another incident, police arrested an alleged extortionist from Banarupa area on Saturday. According to police sources, the raids were conducted to free the area from the clutch of the anti-social elements.

Leprosy campaign in Jhalakati

JHALAKATI, Feb 10: A six-day leprosy eradication campaign began in four thanas of the district on Saturday, reports APB.

Launched under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare the campaign aims at creating awareness about the dreadful disease among the people. The programme of the campaign include posterizing, linking, distribution of leaflets, orientation meetings in educational and religious institutions to disseminate information about the disease. Identifying of leprosy patients is also part of the campaign.

Workshop on children reporting

COMILLA, Feb 10: A five-day long training and workshop on women and children reporting concluded on February 4 at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) here, reports BSS.

Sponsored by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), the workshop was participated by 20 journalists from Comilla and Brahmanbaria districts. Bazlur Rahman, acting Editor of The Daily Sangbad distributed certificates among the participants at the concluding function as the chief guest.

Sweetmeat sellers evading VAT

SRIATPUR, Feb 10: A number of sweetmeat sellers here in the town have reportedly been evading value added tax (VAT) for quite a long time, reports UNB.

There are over 200 sweetmeat shops in the town which sell on an average 125 to 130 maunds of sweetmeat every day. Local people said most of the shop owners do not feel the necessity of giving cash-memos to the customers to evade VAT. They further alleged that the shop owners are engaged in the malpractice in collaboration with a section of dishonest tax officials.

Youth commits suicide

SHARIATPUR, Feb 10: Apparently failing to marry his beloved, a young man of Pora Kidara in Naria thana here allegedly committed suicide at his residence on Monday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Shahidul Islam, 23, son of Abdul Munim Khan. Family sources said Shahidul had an affair with a class IX student of NH School of the same area, but the girl's father fixed her marriage elsewhere. Hearing the news, Shahidul allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself, the sources added.

Training for jobless youths

MAGURA, Feb 10: The Youth Development Directorate of the district had disbursed Tk 73 lakh to 858 unemployed youths to provide them with the means of livelihood, reports APB.

Sources in the department said that the money had been distributed for projects like poultry and cattle farming, fish culture, nurseries, tailoring, production of handicrafts and so on. The department is also training 4,089 young men and women in different professions to make them self supporting.

Shurobhit Bagerhat formed

BAGERHAT, Feb 10: An organisation called 'Shurobhit Bagerhat' has been formed here to undertake literacy drives with a view to eradicating illiteracy from the district, reports APB.

Lists of 2.3 lakh men and women in the age group of 11-45 years of nine thanas and two municipalities have been prepared to bring them under the drive. As many as 6,767 centres have been set up for the purpose. One teacher in each of these centres will impart education to the participants for two hours a day. The programme, under the auspices of the Primary and Mass Education Department, is being implemented by various non-government organisations (NGOs) since 1993.

10 arrested from Sylhet

SYLHET, Feb 10: Police arrested 10 people including three fugitive convicts, from three thanas of the district last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested two people — Abul Kalam and Jasim Uddin — from Sardarmati village in Kanaighat thana on the night of February 1. The two, accused in a theft case, had escaped from police custody with handcuffs 17 months back, police said. On the same night, police nabbed Helaluddin of village Bani on charge of stealing. On secret information on the same night, police raided a house in Baniabazar thana and picked up three fugitive convicts — Chunia Mia, Kanu Mia and Abdul Aziz Bashet. In Companyganj thana, locals caught four cow-lifters red-handed at Kalasadek village on January 31. The alleged thieves — Alauddin, Moinuddin, Farid Mia and Mongal — were handed over to the police.

Rat killing campaign in C'nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 10: A month-long rat killing campaign began in all the upazillas of the district this week, reports BSS.

A rally of the cross section of the people including farmers, NGO activists, social workers and staff of the agriculture department was held in the premises of the district Agriculture Extension Department. Harun-ur Rashid MP attended the rally as the chief guest and inaugurated the rat killing campaign. Ataur Rahman, Chapatnawabganj Paurashava spoke on the occasion as the special guest.

Construction work of roads begins

JESSORE, Feb 10: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has started reconstruction of 19 rural roads in the district, reports BSS.

The approximate cost of the work will be Tk one crore eighty lakh. According to the Executive Engineer of LGED, Jessore, the government is relentlessly working for rural development. The LGED has taken up the reconstruction of 19 roads out of the total damaged rural roads on the basis of preference. Fifty-four per cent of the total work has already been completed.

Shortage of magistrates

RANGPUR, Feb 10: Judicial activities here have been delayed due to shortage of adequate magistrates, reports UNB.

A total of 7210 cases are lying pending in different courts here causing untold sufferings to the litigants. Of the total cases, 3,729 are lying pending for disposal in trial courts and the rest 3,481 in the cognizance courts. Official sources said seven magistrates — three first class and four second class — are now functioning in different courts in addition to their administrative duties. Immediate posting of at least 10 magistrates can expedite the disposal of pending cases mitigating sufferings of the litigants.

Facilities Deptt schemes progressing

CHUADANGA, Feb 10: The implementation of two schemes by the Facilities Department in Chuadanga sada thana at a total cost of Taka one crore twenty lakhs and seventy thousand is progressing satisfactorily, reports BSS.

The ongoing schemes include construction of a three storied academic building at Chuadanga Government College at a cost of Taka 54 lakh 20 thousand and construction of a 50-bed three storied students hostel at Chuadanga Government Girls College. According to an official source, about 50 per cent work of the schemes have been completed and the rest is expected to be completed by June next.

Loans disbursed among farmers

PIROJPUR, Feb 10: Four nationalised commercial banks have disbursed Tk 8.70 crore loans out of targeted Tk 18.90 crore among farmers in the district so far during the current financial year, reports APB.

As per the target, Bangladesh Krishi Bank will disburse Tk 14.58 crore, Sonali Bank Tk 2.71 crore, Agrani Bank Tk 90.68 lakh and Janata Bank Tk 79.75 lakh, sources in the banks said. The loans are being given for cropping, buying agricultural and irrigation instruments, dairy and poultry firms, pisciculture and marketing of agricultural goods. The banks also recovered Tk 4.5 crore during the period.

Tk 390.33 cr railroad renovation project

KUSHITIA, Feb 10: A Tk 390.33 crore project to renovate railroads in western region of the country has got underway, reports BSS.

Officials said 157-km railroads on Khulna-Ishwardi route, 82.50-km on Santahar-Banarpura, 15.75-km on Kawaria-Lalmonirhat, 87-km on Porabda-Goalanda, 41-km on Rajshahi-Abdulpur and 15-km on Parbatipur-Syedpur routes will be renovated under the project. The renovation works include replacing wooden sleepers with steel ones, refitting new nuts and bolts, earth filling, spreading pebbles. Meanwhile, a 35-km track in Khulna-Ishwardi section has been renovated with 50,000 new sleepers and a tender has been invited for supply of one lakh steel sleepers.



JHENIDAH: Books were distributed free of cost recently among the students of Islamic University (IU) School. Photo shows Prof Mohammad Kayesuddin, Vice-Chancellor of IU, Prof Ashraf Ali and Prof Mahtabuddin speaking at the book distribution ceremony. — Star photo

Tough contest likely in pourasabha elections in Moulvibazar

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 10: Campaign for the three pourasabhas here have been gaining momentum.

All the candidates have been busy in trying to draw sympathy of the general voters. They have been arranging tea parties at their respective residences and elsewhere in the towns. Most of the candidates have been visiting their areas for mobilising support from other anti-AL leaders.

Motiur Rahaman Moshik is a top ranking leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) here. He was also an elected commissioner of the pourasabha. Now he is contesting for chairmanship.

Shahbuddin Ahmed is known in the town as a cultural worker. He is an artiste here. His father late M A Rashid was the Chairman of Moulvibazar Pourasabha.

Monwar Ali Chowdhury, another chairman candidate is the leader of Gonotantri Party led by Peer Habibur Rahman. This party have no base in this district.

According to observers of the pourasabha election here, a neck to neck fight may take place for the post of chairman in three pourasabhas.

The candidates for chairman in Moulvibazar Pourasabha, six candidates in Srimongal and four in Kulaura Pourasabha.

In Moulvibazar Pourasabha, the candidates for chairman are Syed Mohsin Ali (Awami League), Mahmudur Rahman (Independent), Motiur Rahaman Moshik (JSD), Monwar Ali Chowdhury (Gonotantri Party) and Shahbuddin Ahmed (Independent).

However, a total of 40 candidates are contesting for nine posts of commissioners. Of them seven are in Ward No. 1, five in Ward No. 2, eight in Ward No. 3, two in Ward No. 4, four in Ward No. 5, three in Ward No. 6, five in Ward No. 7, five in Ward No. 8 and one in Ward No. 9.

In the meantime, Commissioner Candidates Masud Ahmed have been elected commissioner uncontested from Ward No. 9 as there was no contestant in this ward.

Another powerful chairman

Besides this, 16 candidates have been contesting for the three posts for women reserve seats of commissioner. Of them six candidates are in Seat No. 1, four in Seat No. 2 and six in Seat No. 3.

In Srimongal Pourasabha, the chairman candidates are Mohsin Miah Modhu (BNP), Ismail Hussain (AL), M A Mosabbar (BNP), Monsur Bakth Chowdhury (JSD), Abdul Malik (Independent) and Arphan Miah (Independent).

Mohsin Miah Modhu, was elected chairman in 1993. After elected chairman, he joined BNP from BAKSAL. After joining BNP, he made convenor of Srimongal thana committee of BNP. This year Mohsin Miah Modhu resigned from BNP to contest the pourasabha election as BNP has been boycotting this election. He is being treated as a strong candidate.

Ismail Hussain is the General Secretary of Srimongal thana Awami League. He was also elected chairman of the then Srimongal Upazila Parishad.

According to voters, though there are six chairman candidates in the election race, Mohsin Miah Modhu and Ismail Hussain are two main contestants.

However, a total of 42 candidates have been contesting for the seats of commissioners. Of them four candidates are in Ward No. 1, five in Ward No. 2, eight in Ward No. 3, two in Ward No. 4, four in Ward No. 5, three in Ward No. 6, five in Ward No. 7, five in Ward No. 8 and one in Ward No. 9.

Besides this, 10 candidates have been contesting for three posts of women's reserve seats of commissioners. Of the three candidates each in Seat No. 1 and 8.

Besides this, eight candidates have been contesting for three posts of women's reserve seats of commissioners. Of them, two candidates are in Seat No. 1 and three each in Seat No. 2 and 3.

It may be mentioned here that election of Moulvibazar Pourasabha will be held on February 23 and election of Srimongal and Kulaura will be held on February 25.

During the period, some 17,000 kilograms cocoon were produced.

After expiry of the project, the Board proposed one

and three and four in Seat No. 2.

In Kulaura Pourasabha, election will be held for the first time. The chairman candidates are M A Malek (AL), Syed Jamal Uddin (Independent), Gias Uddin Ahmed (JSD) and Niamul Islam (Independent).

M A Malek is the President of Kulaura thana Awami League. He has popularity among a section of voters.

Another powerful candidate is Syed Jamal Uddin who is the President of Kulaura Busienss-men's Association. As a business leader and social worker he has also popularity in the pourasabha area.

Gias Uddin Ahmed, is a senior leader of JSD. He was associated with JSD politics from its very beginning. So he is a well known political leader in the area.

A triangular fight may take place for the post of chairman of Kulaura Pourasabha among Syed Jamal Uddin, M A Malek and Giasuddin Ahmed.

However, a total of 38 candidates are contesting for nine seats of commissioners. Of them five candidates are in Ward No. 1, four in Ward No. 2, three each in Ward No. 3, 4 and 9, two in Ward No. 5 and six candidates each in Ward No. 6, 7 and 8.

Besides this, eight candidates have been contesting for three posts of women's reserve seats of commissioners. Of them, two candidates are in Seat No. 1 and three each in Seat No. 2 and 3.

It may be mentioned here that election of Moulvibazar Pourasabha will be held on February 23 and election of Srimongal and Kulaura will be held on February 25.

Accordingly, Bangladesh Sericulture Board appointed 12 employees besides appointment of other officials.

The board also involved 7,500 people with sericulture project and planted over 11 lakh mulberry plants in the three hill districts — Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban.

After successful completion of the first three-year term, the project was extended for another year upto July 1998, officials said.

During the period, some 17,000 kilograms cocoon were produced.

Mystery shrouded behind her alleged suicide.

Work on voters' ID Card Project in Kurigram stopped

KURIGRAM, Feb 10: Work on Voters' Identity (ID) card project is stopped in the district for long due to a legal battle between two contractors following alleged irregularities in issuing work order, reports APB.

The number of voters in the district is about 8.97 lakh now, but only 3.5 lakh ID cards have been prepared, out of which 2.59 lakh have so far been distributed. Election Commission sources said.

EC gave the responsibility of preparing 847,027 ID cards in nine thanas to one Data System International Ltd on September 9, 1995. The company signed an agreement with the district administration and started work.

Their work, however, stumbled into political instability, featured by hartals, siege and the like. EC also could not supply relevant papers. As a result, the company could not complete the work within the stipulated time of June 30, 1996.

Later, on August 14, 1996, the then Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram, revised the work order and assigned one North America Computer Data Incorporated the task of preparing 448,565 ID cards and distributing those among voters in Chilmari, Nageswari, Bhurangamari, Ulipur and Rajibpur thanas.

On August 29, the Additional Project Director of the Voters' Project filed a case with the court for the successful holding of the election.

Discussion about poura poll

TANGAIL, Feb 10: District administration held a meeting on Monday at local Bhasan Hall to discuss about coming pourashava election, reports BSS.

Political leaders, district level officials, journalists and elite attended the meeting.

Abdus Sattar Khan, Deputy Commissioner presided over the meeting.

The meeting stressed the need for peaceful atmosphere during the pourashava election.

The meeting also urged all concerned to work for the successful holding of the election.

CHT's Sericulture Project remains suspended

RANGAMATI, Feb 10: The activities of Chittagong Hill Tract's Sericulture Project remained suspended for the last eight months due to lack of approval of the ministry concerned, reports UNB.

Officials here said the project is now facing setbacks as the newly established Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs Ministry making unnecessary delay in approving the enhancement of the duration of the project proposed by the Textiles Ministry.

Textiles Ministry had undertaken the three-year long sericulture project at a cost of Tk 3.48 crore during the fiscal 1994-95.

Accordingly, Bangladesh Sericulture Board appointed 12 employees besides appointment of other officials.

The board also involved 7,500 people with sericulture project and planted over 11 lakh mulberry plants in the three hill districts — Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban.

After successful completion of the first three-year term, the project was extended for another year upto July 1998, officials said.