

National

News snaps

Rivals clash leaves 8 injured

SYLHET, Mar 5: A clash between two rival groups of people at Barahati village in Golapganj thana on Tuesday left at least eight people injured, three critically, reports BSS.

Police aid the clash took place when a man prevented his rivals from cutting earth from his land. Three of the injured — Liton, Moti Mia and Saleh Ahmed — were admitted to Sylhet Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Lalon festival in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Mar 5: Lalon festival began here on March 2 at the premises of Lalon Academy, reports BSS.

Thousands of followers and admirers of the great baul Lalon Shah assembled at the venue to pay due respect to the great mystic. A discussion was held at the Lalon Academy on this occasion. Abdus Salam, Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia presided over the meeting.

10 kg silver seized

SATKHIRA, Mar 5: The BDR jawans of 9 Battalion seized 10 kg silver from Hizli Chandipur village in Kaliganj thana and arrested one person in this connection on Sunday, reports BSS.

The BDR jawans of Shokpur BOP of Satkhira in a raid recovered and seized 10 kg silver, from the possession of one Gourango Mondal of village Narkeli in Debhata thana at Hizli Chandipur village in Kaliganj thana. The BDR arrested Gourango Mondal. The seized silver were deposited to the Boshantop Customs authorities.

Uplift works progressing

CHANDPUR, Mar 5: Chandpur District Council has undertaken a comprehensive schemes to implement 45 development projects at cost of Tk one crore thirty-five lakh in the current financial year, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the projects include construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges, culverts, bus passengers sheds and union parishad offices. Besides some educational institutions will be repaired under the projects. About 60 per cent work of these projects have already been completed.

Reception to college principal

BARISAL, Mar 5: A warm reception was accorded to Prof Md Hanif, Principal, Islamia College, Barisal, for receiving national level award as best head of the educational institution of Barisal division last year, reports BSS.

Presented over by Deputy Commissioner M Alauddin, the function was attended by the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Education Sirajuddin Ahmed as the chief guest. Prof Golam Kibria Manu and Prof Mahsin-ul-Islam Habul jointly organised the function on behalf of the teachers, students and other employees of Islamia College on Sunday.

Books distributed

NARSINGDI, Mar 5: Free distribution of new books among students of 761 primary schools in six thanas of Narsingdi district has been completed recently, reports BSS.

The books were distributed among students reading in government, private and community and NGO run institutions. According to official sources, 41,650 sets of new books were distributed to the student of class one, 41,084 sets to class two, 39,221 sets to class three, 37,056 sets to class four and 23,542 sets to class five. The books covered 65 per cent for the students of class one, 67 per cent both class two and 70 per cent for class three, four and class five.

Two with arms arrested

RAJSHAHI, Mar 5: Two persons were arrested along with arms from the city's Kadamtala area on March 2, police said, reports APB.

Acting on a tip-off, police led by OC of Boalta thana Abdus Sattar raided a house and arrested Sirajul Islam Buddhu and Azhar Imitiaz Duke and recovered two country-made pistols and eight bullets. They hailed from Chapainawabganj.

10,000 suffering from leishmaniasis

ISAWARDI, Mar 5: At least 10,000 people are suffering from leishmaniasis in 16 northern districts and the number is increasing alarmingly, according to health officials here, reports APB.

The number is increasing as it is not curable and there is no step by the government to take preventive measures, they said. The main cause of the disease is over-consumption of Khesari dal (lentil), produced in plenty in the districts, they said. It becomes the staple food for poor families during bad days. People of all ages are being attacked. Creating public awareness is the most effective way to prevent its spread, they observed.

Luxury bus operation resumes

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 5: Operation of luxury buses on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway resumed yesterday after a suspension for 12 days, reports APB.

Plenty of luxury buses belonging to three companies were stopped on February 18 following protests by some local socio-political organisations for raising fare. The services resumed after talks between the bus owners and leaders of those organisations in presence of the Chittagong Divisional Commissioner.

Facilities Deptt completes 75 projects

BHERAMARA, Mar 5: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has almost completed 75 project of the last financial year in six thanas of Kushtia district at a cost of Taka three crore, reports BSS.

The thanas are Kushtia sadar, Bheramara, Kumarkhali, Khokha, Mirpur and Daulatpur. The projects included construction of primary school buildings, supply of steel almirahs and benches, reconstruction and repair of school buildings and development of six colleges. Sixty per cent work has already been completed and rest work is expected to be completed soon.

Cultural meet at Kumudini College

TANGAIL, Mar 5: Literary and cultural competition of Kumudini Government Women's College began here on Monday at its campus, reports BSS.

Dr. Salma Banu, principal of the college opened the competition. A total of 95 students of the college are taking part in recitation, songs, dance, debate and selected and extempore speech competitions. The programme concluded on March 4 through distribution of prize among the winners.

Agri-fair concludes

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 5: A five-day agriculture fair concluded on the premises of Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED) office here on March 3, reports BSS.

More than 75 varieties of vegetables and other crops produced through improved technologies were on display at the fair. Organised by the local AED, the fair was inaugurated by the Director, Field Service Kazi Tofazzal Hossain. The technologies and methods displayed in the fair included, pest control, pisciculture in paddy field, preservation of cow dung, improved methods of vegetable cultivation and integrated fishery and poultry farming. About 24 kinds of item of food prepared with potato were displayed in the fair.

Boro farming may fall short of target

RANGAMATI, Mar 5: The cultivation target of IRII-Boro in the district may not be achieved this year due to various problems including severe cold wave and erratic power supply, reports UNB.

Most seedlings in the seedbeds in different thanas have already been damaged due to the cold-spell and foggy weather. Farmers in a bid to overcome the loss of Aman crops prepared their fields, but they mostly failed to transplant the seedlings because of load-shedding. Besides, they are not in a position to cultivate the targeted land due to price-hike of agri-inputs including fertiliser and bullocks.

Fund shortage

SUNAMGANJ, Mar 5: As construction work of the town protection embankment is being delayed due to fund crisis, different areas alongside the river Surma stand threatened by erosion, reports BSS.

Officials said a consulting agency had submitted a report called 'Flood Damage Assessment' in 1998 to construct the embankment, showing an estimated cost of Tk 2.5 crore for implementing the project. When the project was approved by the government, they had sought Tk 1.2 crore from the concerned authorities. 'But unfortunately we have not yet received any fund which was supposed to have been disbursed in the 1998-99 fiscal,' said an official insisting anonymity. Local people urged the authorities concerned to immediately release necessary fund to implement the much-awaited project and thus save them from natural calamity.

Annual milad mahfil held

TANGAIL, Mar 5: Annual milad mahfil of Bindhobashini Government Girls High School was held at the school recently, reports BSS.

Students and teachers of the school attended the milad mahfil. Among others, educationist Begum Rahima Khatoon and Abdur Razzaque spoke on the life and work and ideals of great prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM) in the mahfil.

TLM launched in Mymensingh

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Mar 5: The district administration here has taken up a noble programme to remove illiteracy from the TLM programme here successfully.

The programme titled Total Literacy Movement (TLM) under the banner of Jagrata Mymensingh would spread the light of education to the adults including men, women, housewives, youths, old men and women of the district.

The administration has launched the TLM programme through setting up 95 mass literacy centres here in three phases.

Every Mass Literacy Centre would be conducted by a trained teacher who would get Taka 500 as remuneration per month.

The teachers of the centres would be guided by a supervisor who would be appointed for every 15 centres. The authorities concerned will distribute necessary educational requirements like books, stales, black-

boards, chalks, dusters, hurricane, and fund for purchasing kerosene.

A separate office has been established as monitoring cell under the charge of a high official to carry out the daily activities of the TLM project.

Following the constitution of Jagrata Mymensingh, a 33-member executive committee was formed comprising of educationist, political leaders, journalists, lawyers, officials and elite of the district to voluntarily motivate and supervise the programme.

The Deputy Commissioner and Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) are the Ex-officio president and Member Secretary of the executive committee.

Now MD Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner and Md Abdul Halim, ADC (General) are

conducting the programme as president and member secretary respectively.

At an exchange of views' function with the local journalists recently held at Mymensingh Circuit House, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) informed that a total number of 28,85,568 illiterate adult people here would be free from the curse of illiteracy by 2000 through TLM programme. He also told the journalists that the TLM programme also includes overall human development like life and livelihood, sanitation, food and nutrition, family planning, health care, income generating activities like agriculture, pisciculture, small trader and environment.

At the meeting, the DC sought cooperation of people of all walks of life to make the TLM programme a success.

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