

News snaps

AL MP leaves to perform Hajj

GAZIPUR, Mar 23: Member of Parliament Ahasan Ullah Master left here on March 20 for Saudi Arabia to perform holy Hajj, reports BSS.

Agri-fair concludes

MANIKGANJ, Mar 23: A five-day agriculture fair concluded in the premises of Manikganj Sadar Thana BRDB Office here on March 14, reports BSS.

More than hundred varieties of high quality agriculture products and modern agricultural equipment were on display in 19 stalls. The fair, organised by the Agriculture Extension Department, was inaugurated by Shikh Mozahar Uddin, Deputy Commissioner Manikganj. More than 100 farmers were awarded.

Road construction work progressing

MADARIPUR, Mar 23: Madaripur Pourashabha has taken up a programme for the construction and reconstruction of 22 roads in different areas of the pourashabha, reports BSS.

An amount of Taka 35 lakh and 27 thousand is being financed by the Asian Development Bank. Khalilur Rahman Khan, Chairman of Madaripur Pourashabha told the news agency that the construction of the roads would be completed by the month of June.

Electrification programme

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 23: Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) has undertaken a programme for electrification in Shajadpur thana of Sirajganj district, reports BSS.

The programme will cost over Taka 10 crore under the fifth phase of this region-based project at Shajadpur. According to an official source, the programme includes, two 33/11-KV line power sub-stations, one along Bogra-Fabna highway. The programme has been taken up to install 352 lines in the thana by the year 2002.

Step to prevent water-logging

MUNSHIGANJ, Mar 23: Work on a project to construct three one-kilometre long drains along both sides of the new Jubilee by-pass road in the district town has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Taka 43 lakh, a pourashabha source said, reports BSS.

The project is being implemented under the Secondary Town Infrastructure Development Plan to build a drainage network to facilitate flushing out of sewage and prevent water-logging in the town.

Madrasah edn hampered

MADARIPUR, Mar 23: Madrasah education is being hampered in the district due to lack of text books for the current session, reports APB.

Teachers of some madrasahs told the news agency that the Madrasah Education Board, in a letter to them in August last year, cancelled all text books for Class I to Class V and said that those would be replaced by new ones. But till filing of this report, new books are not available in the market, they said.

Workshop on healthcare

BANDARBAN, Mar 23: A daylong workshop to make the people aware of healthcare was held at the Town Hall here recently, reports UNB.

Thana Nirbahi Officer Aparup Chowdhury presided over the workshop, organised by the Health Department in collaboration with UNICEF. Some 200 tribal headmen, businessmen and chairmen of the local parishes took part in the workshop. Local Government Council Chairman Thoning Chu Frue was present as chief guest while Dr Sarfaraz Khan and Dr Fayed Ahmed Khan was present as special guests.

Women's Day observed

CHUADANGA, Mar 23: International Women's Day was observed in Chuadanga recently, reports BSS.

Chuadanga District Women Affairs Department arranged a discussion meeting, held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga in observance of the day. Joyal Abedin Talukder, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Chuadanga was present in the meeting as the chief guest. Feruza Begum, District Female Affairs Officer, Chuadanga presided over the discussion. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Principal Mohammad Shahajahan, Prof Afroza Begum, Prof Asfe-Raihan, Masud Rana and Rukumar Paul. Besides posters and leaflets were also distributed to mark the day.

Four killers get life-term

MAGURA, Mar 23: A court here recently convicted four people and sentenced them to life-term imprisonment in a murder case, reports UNB.

The convicted — Profulla Kumar Biswas, Nikhil Kumar Biswas, Proshanta Kumar Biswas and Sushanta Kumar were also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer more six months. According to the prosecution, the convicted along with their accomplices following a previous enmity attacked Swarajit Kumar and his three brothers — Tapan, Ratan and Khokan and stabbed them with sharp weapons while they were cultivating their land on May 15, 1989. Later, Ratan succumbed to his injuries at Magura Sadar Hospital. After examining the witnesses and records Additional District and Sessions Judge Golam Rabbani awarded the punishment.

Agri-fair draws large crowd

CHHAGALNAYA (Feni), Mar 23: A three-day agricultural fair concluded here recently, reports BSS.

About 12 stalls of various agricultural products were set-up in the fair. The fair, organised by the Thana Agricultural Extension Department, drew a large number of people. Deputy Director of the local Agricultural Extension Office inaugurated the fair.

Problems grip hospitals in dists

By Staff Correspondent

People are being deprived of medicare service as manifold problems gripped the hospitals in three districts such as Gaibandha, Bagerhat and Narsingdi.

Our Gaibandha correspondent KM Rezaul Hoque says: The standard of Gaibandha hospital after increasing its bed capacity to one hundred.

UNB from Bagerhat reports: The Sadar hospital here is plagued with manifold problems including lack of equipment, medicine and of doctors seriously hampering the treatment of the patients.

The hospital was turned into a 'modern' 100-bed one from 50-bed in 1992, but the patients have to suffer a lot due to the prevailing situation.

The change is only in name, but there is no virtual improvement in treatment facilities," said the sources in the hospital adding that the allotment of medicine and other materials remained the same as before.

The number of doctors, officials and employees has not been increased, they added.

There is no doctor in Anesthesia and Emergency departments so far. Doctors of the other departments are performing additional duties in two shifts.

There is no specialist physician for surgery, maternity and dental departments.

Some 200-300 patients who gather at the outdoor department daily have to return home with some tablets or capsules and prescriptions.

Many poor patients have to suffer extremely because they cannot afford to buy medicine from outside at high prices.

Part from the bed problems, lack of hygienic toilets and scarcity of pure water are common in the hospital.

The condition of the operation theatre is impoverished with lack of essential equipment.

There is no separate room for the maternity department and a fenced verandah is now being used to provide maternity service to the patients.

Patients who are operated upon have to stay together with general patients in the wards due to lack of separate facilities for them.

The only generator of the hospital is lying inoperative for many days. As a result, the patients are to suffer badly during the loadshedding and erratic power supply.

The post of a pathologist in the hospital is lying vacant for long. As a result, wrong diagnosis is a regular feature endangering the lives of patients.

Besides these, residential problems and insecurity of the nurses and doctors are also hampering normal activities of the hospital.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take immediate steps to improve the medicare facilities in the hospital.

Another message from Narsingdi adds: The 100-bed district hospital here is yet to start functioning after the completion of its construction work a year ago at a cost of Tk 8 crore.

Official source said local Public Works Department constructed the two-storied hospital and necessary structures on five acres of land, located beside Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Bashali in Sadar thana, in a bid

to remove long suffering of the local people.

The works of the hospital building on 46,000 square feet land started in the fiscal 1996-97 and completed in June last year. Other structures included six units of accommodation for doctors, 13 units for technician and staffs, two units for nurses alongside mosque and canteen.

Sources said the functioning of the hospital is being delayed due to the ministry's indecision and bureaucratic complexities as well as lack of necessary manpower, furniture and medical equipment.

It may be mentioned that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a public meeting at the local stadium in January last directed the authorities concerned to take proper measures to start functioning of the hospital immediately.

But the inordinate delay of the authority have aroused discontent among the local people.

A report from Narsingdi says: The future of the construction project of a veterinary hospital here became uncertain as the contractor allegedly left the work after drawing a handsome amount.

The work, undertaken in the fiscal 1995-96, at a cost of Tk 32 lakh for the construction of main building of the hospital, boundary wall, car garage and a road.

The government initially allocated Tk 26 lakh for this purpose and a construction company of Pirojpur was given the charge of construction of the main building.

The company started the work and completed a portion till June 1996 at an estimated cost of about Tk 10 lakh. But it allegedly drew Tk 14 lakh against the work from the local authorities.

Public Works Department (PWD) authorities and went away.

The rest of the work remained suspended for long, said the sources adding that the cost of the work was increasing due to this inordinate delay.

Concerned officials said the rest of the allocation, Tk 12 lakh, was yet to be disbursed by the government. But the work could not be completed due to absence of the contractor, it was alleged.

Local people expressed their dissatisfaction over the unnecessary delay in implementing the project.

Tributes paid to 'Palli Kabi'

From Abdul Matin Fakir

FARIDPUR, Mar 23: The 23rd death anniversary of Poet Jasimuddin was observed here in a befitting manner.

Different socio-cultural and educational institutions including Jasim Foundation, Sahitya Parishad, Jatiya Kabita Parishad, Ansaruddin High School and local press club took up separate programme to mark the occasion.

The programmes included discussion meetings on the life and works of the poet and cultural functions. Rich tributes were paid to the great poet in the discussion meetings.

From the discussion it is evident that the poet was very much simple. He had no pride or vanity at all. He used to lead a very simple life. 'Palli Kabi' Jasimuddin was one of the greatest poets the world has ever produced.

He was born in his maternal uncle's house at Tamble Khana at the outskirts of the town on January 1, 1902. But the poet's paternal house is situated at Gobindapur (Ombikapur) adjacent to the town. The name of the poet's father was Moulvi Ansaruddin Mollah who had four sons namely late Alhajj Maftuza Molla, late Syeduddin Ahmed, late Jasimuddin and late Prof Nuruddin Ahmed who served at Rajendra College as a teacher of English for more than a decade until his death in 1964.

The poet left behind four sons and two daughters. His sons are late Md Kamal Anwar, Md Bashu now serving in Ger-

many, Babu Mia, serving in Germany and Md Khorshed Shaha as an engineer in Dhaka city. Of the poet's daughters, one is Hasna Moudud, wife of Barrister Moudud Ahmed, a central leader of BNP, and another is Asma Toufique — both are living in the capital city.

However, the poet's educational career began at a local school in the town. He passed the Matriculation examination from Faridpur Zila School and graduated from Rajendra College. He passed MA examination in Bengali from Calcutta University in 1933.

Jasimuddin as a rural poet may be compared with world famous poet Wordsworth. He wrote a good number of poems of which 'Kabar' is the best one. The poet composed many folk songs. 'Nakshi Kather Math', 'Shojan Badir Ghat' and 'Balu Char' written by the poet has reflected the real picture of rural Bangladesh. His poems have presented the work and life style of the rural people in a very simple manner.

After having MA degree, he became a government servant. Discharging his duties as a government official, he did not deviate from the study of Bengali literature. In the later part of his life, he served in Dhaka University as a teacher of Bengali.

Poet Jasimuddin was respected at home and abroad. He got a number of gold medals in national level as a recognition to his outstanding contributions in Bengali literature, especially Palli Shahitya.

The poet visited America, Great Britain, China, Japan, France, Italy, Thailand, Germany, Indonesia, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Kuwait as a leader of different delegations abroad.

The poet breathed his last on March 14, 1996. He was buried at his family graveyard at Gobindapur near the town. The poet is in eternal rest there under a pomegranate tree.

The authorities concerned should build a mausoleum at the poet's deserted house adjacent to the graveyard to keep the memory of Poet Jasimuddin and construct a bungalow in the area for the visitors from home and abroad.

One shot dead in Laximpur

LAXIMPUR, Mar 23: An expatriate back home from Saudi Arabia was shot dead by extortionists at his village Darzipara in Sadar thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

The victim, identified as Noor Hossain Bachchy, 25, came to his village home on a week leave, three days before the murder.

Police said the extortionist demanded Tk one lakh, which Noor Hossain refused to pay. At this, the hoodlums got furious and fired three rounds of bullets on him killing him on the spot.



RAJSHAHI: New shoals have emerged in the river bed of the Padma in this dry season. Photo shows farmers ploughing such a shoal near Panchabati here. They will cultivate Aus crop in the coming monsoon season. — Star photo

New President, Secy of Munshiganj-Bikrampur Samity

From A Correspondent

MUNSHIGANJ, Mar 23: A T M Ahsan Habib Khan and Masudul Haque have been elected new President and General Secretary (GS) of Munshiganj-Bikrampur Samity in Dhaka.

They were elected uncontested for two-year term at the Annual General Meeting of the association recently.

It is to be mentioned here, Ahsan Habib is the District Governor of Lions Club International, District-315 B-3, Bangladesh and Masudul Haque is the Joint Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh.

Loadshedding grips western zone including Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

Its repairing works are going on by a Chinese engineering firm which will take two months more to complete, said a source of PDB.

Besides, GT-35 unit of Khulna Power Station (KPS) is also out of order. It will never be repaired as its spare parts are no more being manufactured, the source said. GT-35 unit was purchased from Italy, the source further said.

The total requirements in Khulna and Sakhira districts were 100 megawatt on Sunday. But only 50 megawatt were supplied.

The severe loadshedding has seriously affected production works in mills and industries, particularly in Khulna and Jessore industrial belt. It is also hampering irrigation works on Boro paddy fields.

It may be mentioned here that 110 MW and 60 MW power plants at Gopalpara were out of order since the last few months due to major mechanical faults.

Weighing equipment at Jamuna Bridge

From Staff Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 23: Installation of weighing equipment at the Jamuna Bridge has started to check overloading of transports crossing the bridge, reports APB.

The work will be completed within this month, sources in the bridge maintenance agencies told this correspondent recently.

R&H Notice Inviting Tender

Table with 5 columns: Group No, Description of work, Estimated cost, Amount of earnest money, Time for completion of work, Head of expenditure. It lists various repair and maintenance tasks for vehicles and equipment.

Md Shahid Hossein Khan, Executive Engineer, R&H (Mechanical) Workshop Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka

Petrobangla Purchase Department Petrocentre 3, Kawran Bazar C/A Dhaka-1215

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Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in prescribed forms are invited from bonafide suppliers for supply of IBM or IBM Compatible (Brand Computer) Computer along with other accessories. Price of tender schedule is Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only (non-refundable). Tender schedule along with terms and conditions will be available in the Accounts Division of Petrobangla, Petrocentre (2nd floor), 3, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka during office hours from 22-03-99 to 05-04-99.

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