

NEWS SNAPS

Expelled students attack invigilators

UNB, Patuakhali
Two invigilators were injured in an attack by some expelled students near Bilbilas Pali Bidyut sub-centre in Boufal upazila of Patuakhali Sunday.

The injured were identified as lecturers Gazi Shabuj Ahmed and Salahuddin Talukder of Patuakhali Government College. Of them, Gazi Shabuj Ahmed was admitted to Boufal Health Complex in a critical condition. They came to Boufal College as invigilators and expelled Moshafar Hossain, Anisur Rahman, Shaidur Rahman and Belal Hossain from the examination centre for adopting unfair means in the ongoing BA (pass) examination. Some 8-10 unruly students attacked and mercilessly beat them when they were going to Baga launch ghat in a rickshaw after performing duties in the examination centre. A case was filed with the police.

Muggers snatch money from NGO staffer

UNB, Khulna
Muggers snatched away Tk 12,000 in cash from an employee of non-government organisation ASA from in front of Devipur Primary School in Rupsha upazila Sunday.

Police said about five hooligans took Enamul Haq to a nearby bamboo cluster at gunpoint and looted the money after beating him mercilessly. But they fled away when local people rushed to the spot hearing the cry of the victim.

Criminals damage raw bricks

UNB, Comilla
An organised gang of criminals damaged thousands of raw bricks at a brickfield at Goukulinagar in Muradnagar upazila of Comilla on Thursday.

Locals said following a previous enmity the miscreants numbering 70 to 80 stormed into the field at about 12 at night and tied up four workers of the field. Later they pumped water from a nearby pond through shallow engines and damaged the bricks and coal worth over Tk 5 lakh.

Teenage girl raped

UNB, Bagerhat
A teenage girl was raped allegedly by a youth at Kamargram in Mollarhat upazila of Bagerhat Sunday.

Police and witnesses said the youth Milon Molla of the same village abducted the girl at gunpoint when she went to a nearby pond for having bath at about 9:30 AM. The youth forcibly took the girl to a garden and raped her. Hearing her cry, local people rushed to the spot and rescued the bloodstained girl. She was rushed to Mollarhat Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. The father of the victim filed a case against the culprit.

1,221 crimes recorded in Chapainawabganj

UNB, Chapainawabganj
A total of 1,221 crimes were recorded in Chapainawabganj which is highest in the last five years.

Police said the highest 859 crimes were recorded in 1999. They said the number of total crimes, however, would be much more as a large number of cases either remained unreported or were settled locally. The criminal cases recorded last year included 13 murders, three robberies, 10 burglaries, 104 theft, 41 rape, 175 women and children repression, 16 kidnap, nine arms, 74 drug abuse and 85 smuggling.

Plaintiff arrested from court premises

UNB, Patuakhali
A plaintiff was arrested from the court premises in Patuakhali on Saturday for attacking murder case accused.

Witnesses said Sheuli Begum, plaintiff of sensational Kalam murder case, attacked A Razzak and other accused of the case when they came to court premises. On information, police arrested Sheuli Begum from the spot. Police said a case was filed against her under Public Security Act.

Smuggled timbers worth Tk 10 lakh recovered

UNB, Cox's Bazar
Police in a drive recovered smuggled timbers worth about Tk 10 lakh from two ponds at Dulahazara union in Chakaria upazila on Sunday.

On information, police along with forest officials searched the ponds owned by Dulahazara UP chairman Kamal Hossain and member Zahirullah and recovered shegun and garjan timbers. Police, however, arrested the member in this connection.

Pirojpur Bar Assoc executive body

UNB, Pirojpur
Advocate Abdur Razzak Khan Badsha and Sarder Faruk Ahmed have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the District Bar Association.

The election to the 21-member executive body of the association was held in Pirojpur on Sunday. Other elected office bearers are: M Shahidullah Khan, Afzal Hossain, Mojibor Rahman Mridha, Belayet Hossain, Alauddin Khan, Ratan Kumar Das, Abu Amzad Mollah, Ratan Lal Dutta, Akram Hossain Talukder, Zakir Hossain Kazi, M Shah Alam, Uttam Kumar Ghosh, Anwar Hossain, Mahmud Hossain Nasim, Basudev Halder, Nikhil Chandra Mandal, Shahidul Islam, Arun Mandal and Mostofa Kamal.

10 unauthorised shops demolished

UNB, Gaibandha
Gaibandha district administration demolished 10 shops erected illegally on government lands on the first day Monday of the eviction drive.

The eviction drive was hampered due to non-cooperation from municipal authority and direct oppose by the Executive Engineer of Road and Highways Department. Huge number of police aided by two magistrates took part in eviction drive of the establishments. The indiscriminate construction of establishments on the roads and roadsides illegally often create traffic jams in the town causing sufferings to people.

Four banks will disburse agri-loan

UNB, Sherpur
Four nationalised banks have taken up a programme to disburse Tk 29.88 crore as agri-loan among the farmers of Sherpur in the current fiscal year.

The banks Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sonali Bank, Janata and Agrani Bank during the first five months of the current fiscal disbursed Tk 5.60 crore loan among 9,169 farmers. Of the total, BKB has disbursed Tk 4.62 crore among 4,717 farmers, Sonali Bank Tk 17 lakh among 62 farmers, Agrani Bank Tk 51 lakh among 4,360 farmers and Janata Bank Tk 3 lakh among 30 farmers.

Drug addicts up in Moulvibazar

UNB, Moulvibazar
The number of drug addicts has increased alarmingly in Moulvibazar town causing concern among the peace loving people.

Locals alleged that rectified spirit, phensidyl, foreign liquor, opium and hemp are being sold almost openly in different homeo pharmacies, medicine and grocery shops of the town before the nose of the law enforcers.

A large number of youths have become addicted due to easy availability of the drugs. The government is also being deprived of huge amount of tax due to illegal trading of drugs.

Chuadanga municipality election February 12

Three contesting for post of chairman

Md QUAMRUL AREFIN, Chuadanga

After nine years, election to Chuadanga Municipality will be held on February 12.

Three candidates are contesting for the post of chairman. They are existing chairman Md Ohidul Islam Biswas, Advocate Ashraf Ali and Khondokar Abdul Jabbar Sona.

A total of 75 candidates are contesting for the post of nine ward commissioners. Ten candidates are contesting for the post of word commissioner of ward no 1, six candidates are contesting for the post of commissioner of ward no 2, 13 candidates are contesting for the post of ward commissioner of ward no 3. Eight candidates are contesting for the post of commissioner of ward no 4. Seven candidates are contest-

ing for the post of ward commissioner of ward number 5. Six candidates are contesting for the post of commissioner of ward no 6. Seven and 8 and 13 candidates are contesting for the post of commissioner of ward number 9.

Fifteen female candidates are contesting for the post of three ward commissioners reserved for females. Of which four candidates are contesting for the post of commissioner of ward no 1. Six candidates are contesting for the post of commissioner of ward no 2 and five candidates are contesting for the post of commissioner of ward no 3.

The total number of voters of Chuadanga Municipality are 43,769 of which 21,997 are females.

Electioneering by the candidates are going on in full swing.

Meteorological observation centre at Tetulia inactive

UNB, Panchagarh

The Meteorological Observation Centre at Tetulia in Panchagarh remained inactive since its establishment due to non-cooperation from the Met office in Dhaka.

The office was set up at the northern tip of the country with the help of Bangladesh Rifles and district administration in last April to collect data on weather.

It was first decided that BDR would provide the information to its headquarters in Dhaka from where Met office would collect it thrice a day. After doing for some days, the Met office denied to collect the data from BDR headquarters and asked BDR to send it directly to Met office in Dhaka.

But sources said BDR expressed their inability to do the task and the district administration came forward in this regard.

It was then agreed by Met office and district administration that two employees of the administration will

be trained up to collect those information and accordingly two names were sent to Dhaka.

"But since then the department remained silent mysteriously," said one of the sources.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Aftab Hossain said the temperature in the frontier upazila normally 2/3 degree Celsius below the lowest temperature reported from other parts of the country.

30 hurt as BNP factions clash in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

At least 30 people were injured, 15 of them critically in a clash between two rival factions of BNP at village Srehatta in Shalikhra upazila of Magura on Sunday. Four houses and three shops were also ransacked during the clash.

Local people said two groups of BNP, one led by Shawkat Master and the other by Salam Biswas equipped with lethal weapons clashed on Sunday night over establishment of supremacy in the

village which lasted for about two hours.

On information, police reached the spot and fired four blank shots to disperse the clashing groups.

Critically injured persons were identified as Sibadul, 32, Mohan Mian, 25, Mithun, 20, Kamrul, 37, Kaminur, 26, Tokon, 30, Mannan, 45, Kamal, 35, Noor Mian, 30, Mohon Biswas, 25, Liton, 18, Alamgir, 20, Saikul, 18, and Fakhru, 25, were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital and Shahlikha Hospital.

Mymensingh Press Club office-bearers

OUR CORRESPONDENT , Mymensingh

Md. Mosharraf Hossain, Mymensingh Correspondent of The New Nation has been elected the general secretary while Md Habibur Rahman Sheikh, Editor of The Daily Jahan and Professor Md. Abul Kasem have elected the vice-presidents in the new Executive Committee of Mymensingh Press Club for the year 2002.

The election was held at Press Club auditorium on Friday.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh has been holding the charge of president of the club as ex-officio.

Other office-bearers are Joint Secretary: Md. Abul Kasem, a local correspondent of Ajker Kagoj, Treasurer. Advocate Khorshed Khan Pathan, Departmental secretaries Mir Golam Mustafa (The Daily Ittefaq), Aminul Hoq Jahangir, Md. Nazrul Islam, SA Kalam, Editor weekly Charka and members: Advocate Mozammel Hoq, Prof Reazul Islam, Ataul Karim Khokon (Jugantar), Advocate ANM Bazlur Rahman, Advocate Bikash Roy, Advocate Md. Mosarraf Hossain and Prof Mahmud Jahangir Hasan.

A total of 100 voters cast their votes out of 106 voters. Polling started at 2 pm which continued till 5 pm. District election officer Md. Zahid Hossain conducted the election.

Arsenicosis kills one in Babuganj of Barisal

AROOP TALUKDAR, Barisal

One arsenic affected person named Runu Begum, 32, of West Bhuterdia village in Babuganj upazila of Barisal died on January 13.

Besides, 132 persons of six unions in Babuganj upazila area of Barisal were identified as arsenicosis, said Jahangir Alam of NGO Forum. Sixty-two patients were identified as arsenicosis in Rahamatpur union of the upazila,



PHOTO: STAR

Arsenic affected hand of an arsenicosis in village Bhuterdia of Babuganj upazila in Barisal.

he added.

Dr Abdul Khaleque Sikder, UHFPO, Babuganj said for a long time most people in the area were drinking water from shallow tube-wells which turned a good number of people into arsenicosis. After screening it was found that waters of all the shallow tube-wells were arsenic contaminated.

Following the findings all 5,040 shallow tube-wells including four deep tube-wells of Babuganj were red-marked and local people were advised not to drink but to use

waters of shallow tube-wells only for the purpose of cooking and other household works.

The Health Department workers searched arsenicosis from house to house in six unions of the upazila for 10 days and set up a weeklong health camp to identify arsenicosis, said Dr Abdul Khaleque. UHFPO of Babuganj.

In July last year NGO Forum and UNICEF jointly launched a two-year water supply and arsenic mitigation project in which UNICEF provided financial assistance while DPHE provided technical support.

Dr Sikder said patients were also given antioxidant tablets and were advised to drink safe natural and boiled water in such an alarming situation. Motivational and health awareness programmes about the health hazard caused by arsenic poisoning through arsenic contaminated drinking water were also being continued, he added.

Dr Saidur Rahman, Civil Surgeon of Barisal when contacted said necessary steps were already taken to control the situation.

Babuganj upazila of Barisal including 15 other upazilas of different districts in the country were included in an arsenic mitigation programme launched by the Health Department and UNICEF.

A recent survey report said the only source of drinking water for 1,78,177 people in 87 villages of six unions in Babuganj is 4,970 shallow tube-wells.

However, most of the arsenicosis were found to be farmers, day labourers and housewives under the age group of 30 to 55.

The number of arsenicosis is increasing since November 2001 when 58 arsenicosis were identified.