

NEWS SNAPS

Ekushey Mela begins in Brahmanbaria

UNB, Brahmanbaria
A weeklong Ekushey Mela (fair) began at local Faruki Park on Friday on the occasion of silver jubilee of the Martyred Day and International Mother Language Day.

State Minister for law and Parliament Affairs Adv Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan inaugurated the fair at a function. Among others, Prof Ashraf Islam, Police Super Dr Abdur Rahim and Principal Rashida Taher spoke on the occasion. A total of 24 stalls were set up in the fair.

Donation for dead transport workers

BSS, Thakurgaon
Thakurgaon Motor Paribahan Sramik Union Transport Workers' Union has distributed Tk 11,52,000 among the family members of the dead, disabled and destitute transport workers of the organisation.

On the occasion, a brief meeting was presided over by Abdul Gafur, president of the union, held on February 9 in its office. Vice president Khairul Islam and general secretary Hasan Ali of the organisation spoke on the occasion. An amount of Tk 7,52,000 was distributed for 145 families of the dead workers, and Tk one lakh for the disabled and destitute workers.

30 PBS consumers awarded

UNB, Rajbari
Local Palli Biddiyut Samity (PBS) has awarded some 30 consumers for consuming maximum electricity and regular payment of their electricity bills.

PBS distributed the awards among the best consumers in its 3rd annual general meeting held at the local office premises on Thursday. Over 500 members, including board directors and officials from four upazilas of Rajbari were present in the meeting with Abdul Quader Mandal in the chair. Meanwhile, Rajbari PBS brought 231 villages of the upazilas under its electrification programme by installing 696 kms electricity lines. Besides, it undertook a programme to provide electricity connections to some 55,000 consumers of 1,001 villages of the upazilas through setting up 1,760 kms lines by 2003, official sources said.

Touchstone statue recovered

UNB, Chapainawabganj
BDR jawans have recovered a touchstone statue of Hindu God Bishnu from Kanshat bus stand in Chapainawabganj.

BDR sources said the stone weighted 13.5 kg worth nearly Tk 1.35 crore packed in a wooden box was seized on February 8 while it was being smuggled out to India. The smugglers, however, managed to flee the scene. It was handed over to local customs office.

Acid victim's appeal to PM for protection

UNB, Panchagar

Atuna Khatun, a widow who fell victim of acid attack, has appealed to the prime minister from her hospital bed for protection and justice. For, the administrative and legal actions against the perpetrators are allegedly hindered by political interference.

Thirty-six-year old Atuna, widow of Afzal Hossain of village Boglahagi in Bhajanpur union of Tetulia upazila used to earn her living by selling labour.

On the night of January 18 this year, she came out of her house in response to call of nature. The perpetrators waiting for this opportunity caught her unaware and sprayed acid on her body, including the breast and secret organs. As she raised hue and cry, the culprits fled leaving the poor woman groaning in severe pain.

Neighbours rushed her to the hospital the same night. She filed a case with Tetulia police on Jan 19 accusing UP member Basir Alam and his accomplices Aynul Haq, Wahed, Emadadul, Hakikul, Noor

Mohammad, Abirul, Shahjahan and Azharul.

The same day UNO, OC and SP visited her in the hospital. She narrated to them the incident and named the culprits. The police also recorded her statement in the hospital.

Two of the accused persons were taken into custody while others are freely moving in the village.

When Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar came on a visit on Jan 20, he sent one of his aides to see Atuna Khatun in the hospital.

The same night the Speaker discussed the law and order situation in Panchagar at a meeting in DC's conference room. There he asked the officials concerned to investigate into the acid throw case with utmost caution. After the meeting, police and administration became inactive in following Atuna's case.

Informed sources said a written allegation by some of accused in the acid throw case, attested by Bhajanpur UP chairman, was made to the Speaker. They termed as fabricated the case of acid throw

and said Atuna was a woman of questionable character, used against them by a vested group comprising some employees of Jemcon Ltd who have a land dispute with accused Basir Alam.

Earlier on December 12 last year, Atuna Khatun filed a case with the magistrate court against the same people under the Woman and Child Repression Act for harassing and threatening her. The court forwarded the case to police for investigation, but police, under political influence, refrained from registering the case.

Atuna Khatun broke down in tears.

"Police, UP chairman and influential people have ganged up against me. They've threatened my witnesses of implicating in false cases and compelled them to make statement before the magistrate against me. They're spreading falsehood assassinating my character," she told.

Atuna said she made a written appeal to the prime minister with the hope that she would take appropriate measures for her security and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

RU vacation begins today

BSS, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) will remain closed for 11 days from Sunday on the occasion of Saraswati Puja, International Mother Language Day and Eid-ul-Azha, official sources said.

All classes and official activities of the university will resume on February 28.

RUTA polls Mar 14

BSS, Rajshahi

The election of Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) will be held on March 14.

The final list of the candidates would be announced on March 11, a RUTA press release said.

Road link on Pabna-Sujanagar suspended for six hours

UNB, Pabna

Villagers raised blockade on Pabna-Sujanagar road suspending communication for six hours on Thursday in protest against assaulting the principal of M Monsur Ali College in Pabna.

About 500 people of nearby 15 villages, including Shrekol, Sadullapur, Khalispur, Chamarpur, Dorishrekol, Charpara, Tarabari, assembled on the road soon after the news of assaulting the principal spread.

A group of terrorists attacked the college and beat mercilessly the teachers and principal Abdul Mannan on Thursday leaving the principal severely injured.

Pabna Bar Assoc election held

UNB, Pabna

BNP-Jamat-JP supported panel and Awami League supported panel shared posts in Pabna district Bar Association election held on Thursday.

The BNP-Jamat-JP panel bagged five posts, including the President, while Awami League panel won eight posts, including the General Secretary.

Those elected from ruling party panel are: President M A Matin Mia, Treasure Alamgir Hossain, Joint Secretary (library) Shahadat Hossain Bokul and members Ashrafuzzaman Halim and Borhan Uddin.

The Awami supported panel winners are: Vice President Mohammad Azizur Rahman and Shah Alam, General Secretary A K Azad Khan, Joint Secretary (Development) Abdus Salam Khan Ratan, Joint Secretary (Culture, Audit and Telephone) Aminul Islam, Auditor Abdus Salam Ahmed Orun and members Tasmin Ara Bulbul and Asaduzzaman Firoz.



PHOTO: STAR

Some students of Rajshahi University passing happy time at the Central Shaheed Minar of the university while welcoming the Spring on Wednesday, the first day of Bangla month Falgun

RU students welcome spring

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The students of Rajshahi University welcomed Pahela Falgun, the first day of Spring, on Wednesday amidst joy and festivity, hoping for a better tomorrow.

Hundreds of female student wearing traditional yellow sarees with red trimmings and male student attired in panjabees thronged different places including the Shaheed Minar premises, Senate building ground, Sabash Bangladesh field, Iblish Chattar, Shaheed Smriti Sangrahashala, RU Stadium in the campus and parks, zoo and Padma embankment in the city.

A mood of festivity prevailed on the campus. People irrespective of ages and sex celebrated the day enthusiastically, but in a disciplined manner. They exchanged greetings, presenting flowers and gifts to their beloved ones on the occasion.

The main attraction of the day was the colourful rally organised by the students of Fine Arts Department and participated by all others which paraded the main thoroughfares of the campus. The students played different musical instruments and expressed their joy singing songs of Tagore and others. They were welcoming the season and greeting others.

Moulvibazar DIARY

Banned SSP on sale

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Banned Single Super Phosphate (SSP) fertiliser is being sold in different rural markets of Moulvibazar at random, it is alleged.

A group of dishonest traders are selling this contraband fertiliser in the markets, especially in the border areas.

The government had banned SSP fertiliser in 1999 for its negative impact on lands. After that SSP fertiliser was withdrawn from the markets. But after a few months, a group of smugglers, are importing SSP fertiliser in an illegal way from India and are selling this in local markets.

Most farmers have no idea about SSP fertiliser. Farmers are purchasing this contraband item and using in their crop fields because of its cheapness and easy availability. There is no initiative to take action against the sellers of SSP.

Scholarship distributed

The scholarship distribution ceremony of 'Nirjhar', a local educational and cultural organisation, was held at M Saifur Rahman auditorium recently.

Prof Karunamoy Roy, President of 'Nirjhar' presided over there. Shamim Akter, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) and Prof Nani Gopal Roy, Principal of Moulvibazar Government College attended the function as the chief guest and special guest respectively. The function was addressed, among others, by Md Koresh Khan, Principal of Rajnagar Degree College, Prof Habibur Rahman Abu, Prof Abul Fateh Fatteh and Mirja Farid Ahmed Beg. Prof Faisur Rahman, General Secretary of 'Nirjhar' gave the address of welcome.

'Nirjhar' has been awarding the meritorious students at school level every year. The selection was made through a written test.

This year 92 students of class III to class IX of different schools of Moulvibazar got this scholarship. Students from 107 primary and high schools participated in this year's written test.

Nasim criticises Saifur

Former home minister and organising secretary of Awami League Mohammad Nasim has criticised Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman for his pro-Indian attitude.

Nasim observed this 'because they are hatching a conspiracy to sell gas to India'.