

NEWS SNAPS

Body recovered

UNB, Sherpur
The body of a young woman killed by unknown miscreants was recovered from Kawakuri area in Nalitbari upazila Thursday.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body of the unidentified woman aged about 25. Several injury marks were found in the neck and other parts of her body. A murder case was filed.

Phensidyl recovered

UNB, Lalmonirhat
Police recovered some 240 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from village Barabarbari in Aditmari upazila Tuesday.

Police said a drug trader ran away leaving behind the drug when he sensed the presence of plainclothes police who raided the village. A case was filed.

Youth gets 10 years RI

UNB, Patuakhali

A court here has convicted a youth and sentenced him to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) in an arms case.

The convict is Farooq, 20, of Boupal upazila. The case history in brief: Farooq was arrested from Trawler Ghat in the upazila along with a country-made pistol on February 14, 2000.

After examining the records and witnesses, the judge of Special Tribunal-4 pronounced the verdict Saturday.

Acid thrown on 3 of a family

UNB, Satkhira

Unidentified miscreants threw acid on three persons of a family, including a 21 days old baby, leaving them seriously injured at a village in Tala upazila of the district recently.

Police and family sources said Noor Islam, 28, his wife Khodeza Khatun, 18, and their daughter Sonali of village Noakali sustained serious burn injuries in the acid attack.

The miscreants threw acid on them through the window of their house when they were asleep. They were first admitted to Tala Health Complex and then shifted to Khulna 250-Bed Hospital.

The reason behind the acid throwing could not be known. A case was filed with Tala police station in this connection.

Army man injured in Sunamganj road mishap dies

UNB, Sunamganj

An army man who was injured along with his two colleagues in a traffic accident in the town died at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as army sergeant Mohammad Abul Kalam. Kalam and two of his colleagues were injured when a coach knocked them down during their parade on Hajipara Road in the town on December 23.

Snatcher gets 4-year-RI in C'nawabganj

UNB, Chapainawabganj

A court here on Saturday sentenced a criminal to four years rigorous imprisonment (RI) under Speedy Trial Act.

The first class magistrate court also fined the convict, Mannu, Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer one year rigorous imprisonment (RI) more.

According to the prosecution, the local people caught Mannu with firearms while he was fleeing after snatching a motorcycle at Kalupur in Gomostapur upazila on October 22.

The motorbike owner filed a case with Gomostapur thana under Speedy Trial Act (STA).

After examining the records and witnesses, magistrate Santoshkumar Adhikari found him guilty and handed down the punishment within 21 days of the incident.

Corrupt principal suspended

UNB, Sherpur

The principal of Fatehpur SFMK Fazil Madrassa in Sriwardi upazila has been suspended on charge of corruption.

According to a delayed report, Principal Abdul Hye was suspended on December 10 after an inquiry committee headed by a magistrate found him guilty of corruption and mismanagement.

Local upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) filed a case against the principal for misappropriating funds of the Madrassa and allowing 153 students to sit for Dakhil examination with fake registrations. 1

15 hurt in pre-polls violence in Faridpur

UP polls schedule generates enthusiasm among voters in five districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Announcement of the union parishad (UP) election schedule has generated great enthusiasm among the voters and probable candidates in the districts of Satkhira, Faridpur, Sherpur, Bagerhat and Madaripur.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Election to 75, out of 78 union parishads (UPs) in Satkhira district is scheduled to be held from January 25 to March of next year.

Elections to Koila and Langal Jhhara unions in Kalaroa upazila and Champaful union in Kaligonj upazila will not be held this time because of non-expiry of the tenure in these unions.

A meeting held in the deputy commissioner's (DC) office recently with the DC of Satkhira in the chair announced the election schedule.

According to the district election office sources, elections to Tala Sadar, Khalilnagar, Jalalpur, Kheshva, Khalishkhali and Magura union parishads in Tala upazila will be held on January 25 while elections to Tetulia, Islankati, Dhandia, Nagarghata, sarulia and Kumira unions of the same upazila will be held on January 27. Polling in

Kushodanga, Deara, Jalalabad, Joynagar and Jugikhali unions in Kalaroa upazila is scheduled to be held on January 30 while polling in Keralkata, Helatala, Keragachchi, Chandandpur and Sowabaria unions in the same upazila will be held on February 2.

Polling in Alipur, Bhomra, Banskah, Kuskhali, Ghona, Baikari and Shibpur unions will be held on February 5 while polling in Dhulihar, Brahmarajpur, Fingri, Jhhowdanga, Labasa, Balli and Agardari unions in the same upazila will be held on February 8.

Elections to kulla, Kadakati, Dargahpur, Budhata and Shovnali in Assasuni upazila are scheduled to be held on February 16 while polling in Assasuni Sadar, Sreeula, Bardal, Khajra, Pratapnagar and Anutia unions in the same upazila will be held on February 19.

Polling in Noapara, Sakhipur, Debhata Sadar, Kulia and Parulia unions in Debhata upazila and Dhalbaria union in Kaligonj will be held on February 23. Polling in Burigoalini, Gabura, Shyamnagar, Romjannagar, Kaikhali, and Munshigonj unions in Shyamnagar upazila will be held on February 27 while Kashmiria, Noornagar,

Tuesday.

Police and witnesses said supporters of Wadud Shikder and Rob Matabbar of the village fought a pitched battle over the coming UP election.

Police have been deployed in the area to fend off further trouble.

UNB from Sherpur reports: Electioneering has gained momentum in Sherpur with the announcement of election schedule for 52 unions of five upazilas.

According to the schedule, elections in the 52 unions will be held between January 25 and March 10.

The last date for submission of nomination papers is January 1. The nomination papers will be scrutinised on January 2 as the last date for withdrawal of nominations is January 9.

UNB from Bagerhat adds: Elections in 74 unions in nine upazilas of Bagerhat will be held between February 2 and March 6.

Another report from Madaripur says: Elections in 55 unions in four upazilas of Madaripur will be held between January 25 and February 25.



PHOTO: STAR

A grower takes care of mustard crop which he cultivated on his land at a village in Magura district. Mustard farming has gained popularity here because of its good return. This season the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Magura has taken up a programme to cultivate mustard on 6,000 hectares of land with a production target of 4,800 metric tons.

Because of shivering cold wave

BSS, Joypurhat

At least 28 per cent of the Junior Scholarship Examination-2002 examinees could not attend their examinations due to shivering cold wave in Joypurhat on December 23.

A cold spell accompanied by Himalayan wind hit the northern districts, causing sufferings to the people here.

According to official sources, a total of 2,126 examinees from 154 educational institutions from all over the district were supposed to appear in the examinations at two centres of RB Government High School and Government Girls' High School in the town. But only 1,537 of them appeared and 589 remained absent.

The rate of absent examinees broke all previous records which is abnormal.

One of the investigators Shaju, Scouts teacher of KB High School told that due to extreme cold wave, examinees from distant places could not reach the examination centres on time.

70 poor women flee home for failing to repay BRAC loan

UNB, Sirajganj

Some 70 poor women who took loan from Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) fled their homes at Roynaganj upazila after the arrest of four fellow villagers for non-payment of loan of the non-governmental organisation (NGO).

The arrested women were identified as Ambia Khatun, Monjuara and Asheka of Sholihhapla and Rina Khatun of Botol villages.

Poor women took loan from the local BRAC office through their associations.

As they failed to repay the money, the organisation filed cases against them.

Police later arrested four of them. Other borrowers fled their homes to avoid police arrest.

Fugitive convict nabbed after 9 years in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A convicted man, who was on the run for the last nine years, was arrested from village Tanki in Muradnagar upazila Wednesday.

On information, police raided the house of Abdul Latif Bhuiyan at the village and arrested him. He went into hiding in 1993 when he was sentenced to 15 years' rigorous imprisonment in a case filed under the Woman and Child Repression Prevention Act.

Meanwhile, police recovered a revolver from the house of an arrested man at village Lakhankhola in Meghna thana on the day.

Acting on confessional statement of Majibur Rahman during his three-day remand, police recovered the foreign-made arms from his cowshed.

A case was filed.



PHOTO: STAR

Clients through a roadside shop of old clothes in Rangpur town. Cold victims of all walks of life, especially those of low income group suffer much in this situation. Government, non-governmental organisations and philanthropists should come forward immediately to mitigate the sufferings of the distressed humanity.

Female voters of Surat union in Jhenidah will cast vote for 2nd time

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The female voters of Surat union in Sadar upazila will exercise their voting rights for the second time.

They were barred from casting vote in any election for the last couple of decades.

The district administration in cooperation with non-governmental organisations succeeded to help the female voters to exercise their right to franchise during the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) elections on October 1 last year.

Earlier, male guardians of the female voters in the area did not allow them to go to the polling centers due to social barrier.

The female voters got the opportunity to exercise their voting rights for the second time after announcement of the election schedule for union parishad (UP) elections in 668 unions of six upazilas in Jhenidah district by the Election Commission (EC).

According to the schedule, the candidates will file nominations on

January 1 which will be scrutinised on the next day. January 9 was fixed for withdrawal of candidature, according to EC sources. Vote casting will start on January 25, 2003 which will end on March 4 next year.

Elections to Pantapara, Swaruppur, Shyamkurm Napa, Kazirber and Bangshbaria unions of Mohepur upazila will be held on January 25 while elections to SBK, Fatepur, Jadavpur, Natima, Mandarbaria and Azampur unions in the same upazila are scheduled to be held on January 28.

Elections to Sabdarpur, Dora, Kusna, Baluher and Elangi unions in Kotchandpur upazila are scheduled to be held on February 1.

On February 4 elections to Sundarpur-Durgapur, Jamal, Kola, Niamatpur, Roygram and Maliat unions in Kaligonj upazila will be held while elections to Simla-Rokampur, Trilochonpur, Barobazar, Kastobhanga and Rakhalgachhi unions will be held on February 6.

The election centres in Sadhuhati, Madhuhati, Saganna, Halidhani, Kumrabaria, Ganna, Maharajpur and Paglakanai in Jhenidah Sadar unions were shown as sensitive unions. Elections to those unions will be held on February 19. February 22 was scheduled for holding elections in Porahati, Harisankarpur, Padmakar, Dogachhi, Surat and Naldanga unions.

The voters of Bhaina, Falshi, Joradah, Taherhuda, Raghunathpur, Chandpur, Daulalpur and Kapashatia unions of Harinakundu upazila will cast their votes on February 25.

According to EC sources, on March 1 the voters of Tribeni, Mirzapur, Dignagar, Kancherkole, Umedpur, Dudsar and Fulahari unions in Saikupa upazila will cast their votes while on March 4 the voters of Sarutia, Hakimpur, Dhalaharachandra, Monaharpur, Bogur, Abaipur and Nityanadapur unions will apply their voting rights.

Low potato price frustrates Rangpur growers

UNB, Rangpur

Potato price has declined by nearly 50 per cent in eight districts of the greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts upsetting the growers.

Market sources said an 84-kg sack of potato was now selling at Tk 400-450 against Tk 850-900 three months back.

Besides, some 1,50,000 sacks of potatoes stored in 19 cold storage in Rangpur zone last year still remained

unsold due to its low price.

Farmers cannot lift their potatoes from the cold storage for lack of money to pay bills.

Shaheb Ali, a farmer of Pirgachha upazila in the district, said he cultivated potatoes on five hectares of land instead of 10 hectares this season because of its low price.

"I could not yet sell 50 sacks of potato I harvested last year," he said showing reluctance to cultivate potato next year.

Meanwhile, potato has been cultivated on 91,500 hectares of land in eight districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur with a production target of 10,91,750 mts this season.

District-wise breakup: Rangpur-32,500 hectares, Nilphamari-14,000 hectares, Gaibandha-6,400 hectares, Lalmonirhat-6,300 hectares, Kurigram-4,000 hectares, Dinajpur-18,100 hectares, Panchagarh-4,200 hectares and Thakurgaon-6,000 hectares.