

SNAPS

Faridpur Bar Assoc election held

BSS, Faridpur, Election to the Faridpur Bar Association was held on the Bar Library premises on Thursday.

Advocate Subal Chandra Saha and advocate Khasruzzaman Dulu, were re-elected president and secretary respectively for 1411 Bangla year.

Advocate Shahidunnabi and advocate Abdul Kader Mia became vice-presidents while advocate Asit Majumdar was elected assistant secretary (finance). Five assistant secretaries and nine executive members were also elected in the 19-member body.

A total of 194 out of 213 voters cast their votes in the election. Senior lawyer advocate Abdur Razzak conducted the election as the election commissioner.

Sacrificial animal's meat recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria Police recovered two cartons of mutton of sacrificial animal from Saudi Arabia on Monday.

The mutton was recovered from the house of a government employee named Yousof Ali at Sarail upazila.

Yousof disclosed that an assistant of the office had ordered him to do so.

After recovery of the meat police distributed the same among the people.

Memo submitted to Gopalganj DC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj A memorandum was submitted to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Gopalganj on Tuesday.

Gopalganj district Harisabha Organising Committee submitted the memorandum demanding punishment to miscreants who attacked innocent people at a peaceful religious meeting. Basunia Rairasoraj Matua (Devotees) Sampradaya (Society) organised it in observance of Orakandi Baruni at Tungipara

Earlier a procession was brought out by them which paraded important roads in the area.

140 kg hemp recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria About 140 kilogram (KG) of hemp was recovered from different parts of the bordering district in a month.

BDR personnel of 7 Rifles Battalion recovered it after launching anti-smuggling drives.

The recovered hemp was deposited at the 'malkhana' of 7 Rifles Battalion at Sarail, BDR source said.

Micro-credit brings poor women's economic emancipation

ASA, Jagoroni Chakra help restore lost glory of Magura village

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Life is now meaningful to Nabiron, an abandoned housewife of Gopalnagar village in Mohammadpur upazila here. She is now a wealthy woman in the area by selling bamboo-made traps to catch fish.

Fortune smiled on Nabiron, a mother of three sons, when ASA (Association for Social Advancement), a major NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) came forward to her rescue by providing training and micro-credit for small entrepreneurs. ASA offered her a loan of 9,000 taka in 2001. Making good use of the loan she set up a bamboo-based cottage industry on her father's land. She started making bamboo-made traps to catch fish, locally called 'dohar.' She used to make a fish trap at a cost of six taka and sold it at 12 taka. Every Saturday she began to

supply her product to the wholesalers from her house at the rate of 1,200 taka per 100 traps. The wholesalers sold her product to the adjoining districts of Faridpur and Rajbari.

"Now I earn 3,000-4,000 taka each month and my children are attending school," smiling Nabiron told this correspondent. With the profit she also built a tin-shed house last year.

Once Telipukur and its surrounding villages were famous for cottage industries, locals told this correspondent. But due to shortage of capital and lack of partitionisation, bamboo-based cottage industries faced ruination, they added.

However, ASA initiatives brought back the lost glory of the villages. At present 31 women at Telipukur village only are involved in manufacturing bamboo-made fish traps. The names of a few

women like Nabiron, Selina, Monjina, Hasina, Zakia, Fatema, Angura, Nilupha and Pervin are worth mentioning.

Here is a story of another woman named Nilupha at this village. Only three years back the poor housewife, also mother of five children had to live in extreme poverty. Because her rickshawpuller husband could not feed his family of seven members with his meagre income.

About two years back Jagoroni Chakra, another NGO brought back Nilupha's good days. Jagoroni provided her with a microcredit of 8,000 taka. Utilising the credit she also started manufacturing 'Dohar'. Now her monthly earning rose to 4000 taka per month. She told this correspondent that she got her eldest daughter married to a man of her choice this year with her savings.



A beneficiary changed her lot making bamboo-made fish traps.

PHOTO: STAR

Bid to revive social afforestation programme

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman's initiative brings hope for people in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A fresh bid has been undertaken to revive the social afforestation project (SAP) here.

Following publication of a story in The Daily Star recently, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman took an initiative to revive the programme.

Under the initiative a fresh tripartite accord will be signed among the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), the Department of Forest and the concerned beneficiaries. The initiative brought hope for local people.

The finance minister inspected a project area of the programme adjacent to the 'Monu Barrage' near Moulvibazar town. He instructed the

departments concerned to take initiatives to continue the popular programme. He also advised people to plant saplings on BWDB embankment and roadside areas.

Forest and BWDB officials also visited different project areas in Moulvibazar and Rajnagar upazilas. During the visit, officials of both the departments assured people of renewal of the project for next 10 years.

The Forest Officer of Moulvibazar, Champalal Baidya told journalists that the department has taken necessary arrangement to plant saplings of 25,000 fruit-bearing and wooden trees on 25-kilometre areas of different embankments and roadside locations in Moulvibazar and Rajnagar upazilas.

Faulty rubber dams hamper boro cultivation in Gazipur, Mymensingh



A faulty rubber dam built at Urahati point on the Khiru in Bhaluka, Mymensingh.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Boro cultivation on 400 hectares of land in two upazilas faced a setback due to unplanned construction of two rubber dams in two rivers.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the two rubber dams, one at Urahati point on the Khiru in Bhaluka upazila here and the other at Golaghat point on the Matikata in Sreepur upazila, Gazipur.

The three crore taka project was aimed at producing an additional 2,300 metric tons (MT) of crops on 400 hectares of land in dry season.

Initially the dams were constructed to contain sufficient water upto a height of maximum 12 feet, needed for irrigation in the dry season. But farmers in the upstream faced problem in boro cultivation due to water logging in dam area last December.

Workers of the Department of

Agriculture Extension (DAE) in two upazilas removed water by one foot from the waterlogged area but in vain. The farmers could not make up their losses.

Moreover, because of siltation in the upstream of the rivers, the quantity of water was reduced in the dam areas. As a result, both the rivers dried up creating cracks at various points. In such a situation the farmers could not operate their power pumps to irrigate their fields during the dry season.

Abdur Razzaq, a farmer at Urahati village told this correspondent that before construction of the dams, the flow of water was smooth during the dry season. He used the river water to irrigate lands.

Farmers have expressed their opinion that if the rivers are dredged upto four or five feet at upstream, then the normal flow of the rivers in the dry season will be restored making the rubber dams effective.

Magura Sadar thana AL triennial council today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Today is the triennial council of Magura Sadar thana unit of Awami League (AL).

The council is being held amid infighting in the party after about seven years.

The council was postponed twice during the last three months due to internal feud.

Party leaders and activists of the Sadar thana unit are divided into two groups over formation of a new committee. At least three clashes took place during the last three months.

The rival factions of the party's Sadar thana unit are backed by local lawmaker Dr M Serajul Akbar and district Awami League convener Md Altaf Hossain. The two leaders want their men's induction in the new committee.

Party workers and mid-level

leaders want a strong committee through direct vote of councillors while vested quarters in the party want formation of the committee without voting, party insiders said.

The last council of the party's Sadar thana unit was held in 1997 where former upazila chairman Rustam Ali and Pankaj Kumar Kundu were elected president and general secretary.

This year, Rustam Ali and Alamgir Hossain with the blessings of lawmaker Akbar are vying for the posts of president and general secretary while Pankaj Kumar Kundu and Babul Ahmed taking support of AL convener Altaf are running for the same posts, party sources said.

Party sources said, a total of 273 councillors from different ward and union units will elect its executive members.

60 injured in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 60 persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups following an altercation at Chitna village in Nasimgar upazila on Wednesday.

According to eye-witness and hospital sources, one person named Tausid Mia was fishing in the pond of Askar Ali. There he started an altercation with Rahmat Ali. Later, both of their supporters equipped with lethal weapons locked in a clash that lasted for three hours resulting in injuries to both the groups. Five houses were also damaged.

Of them, Ahada Begum, 29, Kulsum, 15, Kulsoma Begum, 15, Ibrahim, 27, Tahera Kahatun, 18, Rahmat Ali and Tausid Mia were sent to Madhabpur Upazila Health Complex. The rest were given first aid at a local clinic and Nasimgar hospital.

Property worth two lakh taka was damaged during the clash.

Extortionist gets 14 yrs RI in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A court here on Thursday sentenced a toll collector to 14 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined 5,000 taka, in default, to suffer one year more RI.

Jasim Uddin, son of late Abdus Sobahan Talukder of Kalikapur demanded toll amounting to 5,000 taka from a staff of Patuakhali Rural Electrification Board named Jane Alam on March 5 last year. On refusal Jasim and three of his accomplices beat him up.

AKM Zahurul Alam, Assistant Judge of First Court delivered the judgement.

Workshop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A day long workshop on 'Ethics of Local Newspapers' was held on Tuesday at the local press club auditorium.

Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) a local NGO organised the workshop.