

SNAPS

Yellow panel sweeps
CU Dean polls

CU CORRESPONDENT

Yellow Panel, the united platform of Awami League (AL) and left leaning teachers, has swept election to the Dean of Commerce Faculty, Chittagong University (CU) on Monday. Yellow Panel candidate Prof Dr Monzur Mahmud of Accounting Department bagged 36 votes while his rival Jamaat backed White Panel candidate Prof Dr Kazi Ahmed Nabi of Finance Department got 33 votes. Sixty-nine voters exercised their franchise to elect the dean for the next two years. The polling was held from 9am to 1pm at Commerce Faculty Lecture Gallery.

Smuggled mustard oil
seized in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal Barisal Kotwall police seized a huge quantity of smuggled mustard oil and recovered a pipe gun in the city on Tuesday. Police also arrested five criminals. They are Dhalu Howlader, Dhalu, 28, Manik, 30, Riar, 12, and Dhalu, 32. Police also recovered the pipe gun from Dhalu.

91 arsenicosis patients
in KasbaOUR CORRESPONDENT,
B'baria

In Kasba upazila, 91 arsenic affected patients were detected and 4,147 arsenic contaminated tube-wells were marked. Dhaka Community Hospital conducted a survey under the supervision of the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE).

BNP leader freed by
abductorsOUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushtia

A BNP leader was released after four days of abduction on payment of ransom. Abductors picked up Lutfur Rahman, general secretary of Alandanga upazila unit of the party in Chuadanga district at gunpoint on May 26. He was released on payment of two lakh taka. The abductors threatened them to kill if they leak out the incident. Police said they are not aware about the incident as none filed any case. Earlier, the BNP leader and his family sources remained mum over the incident.

'Outlaw' killed
by rivalsOUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushtia

An alleged cadre of an outlawed party was gunned down by rivals at village Charsha in Sadar upazila in Rajbari district on Tuesday.

The dead is an alleged cadre of outlawed New Biplabi Communist Party (NBCP) named Ziar Rahman, 25.

Police said 15-armed men stormed into Ziar's house and picked him at gunpoint and took him to a nearby field. They shot him there at point blank. He died on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Rajbari Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

At least 65 people were injured as BNP factions clashed in Kushtia and Barisal.

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Our Kushtia Correspondent reported that at least 50 persons were injured, 10 of them seriously

dependent on Boro crop will face food crisis, said Shafique Miah of Dhol village in Deraia upazila.

Normally water recedes within a few days and we can save crops. But this year it was different. "I could recover only ten percent of the crop from under water".

He is worried how to survive till the next harvest a year later.

The early flood took away ready-for-harvest Boro paddy on three acres, the only food crop in a year.

Amir Uddin at Chhoyhara village in Jagannathpur upazila says the situation will become serious in about three weeks.

"There will be no food and work. The lands will remain under water for over seven months.

"I just looked on helplessly as the Boro fields reeled under water in 2-3 days", he said.

"We did not face such a situation even after the 1988 deluge, which came after harvest", he says.

Nurul Gani and Amir Uddin are among several lakh people in Sunamganj district, a low-lying haor area, who lost their entire paddy crop.

All the ten upazilas in the district have been affected by the floods in April-May.

Even rich farmers who are

situation and suggested special relief allocations and agriculture loan.

Meeting sources said a visibly angry Whip Aspia asked WDB officials to take punitive action against officials and contractors responsible for the ill-planned and improperly maintained embankments. Aspia was elected from Sunamganj Sadar (North) and Biswambarpur upazilas.

Deputy Commissioner Jafar Siddique, Police Superintendent Md Shahidul Islam, Advocate Bazlul Majid Chowdhury Khashru, Additional PP Mashruque Alam, Advocate Matiur Rahman and Advocate Ainul Islam Babul also spoke at the meeting.

Sources said Aspia met the Prime Minister earlier and apprised her of the situation and got assurance of additional relief allocations.

There are about 40 flood control embankments in haors in the district. As in every year, maintenance work was done this year also. About Tk one core 75 lakh was spent this year, WDB sources said.

But the WDB starts work on embankments just before the rainy season, which does not yield any meaningful result, people alleged.

Earlier in April, Water Resources Minister Hafij Uddin Ahmed at a meeting with the district administration at Sunamganj Circuit House also ordered action against WDB officials responsible for the embankments.

Political leaders and district officials have suggested launching of food aid programme in the district.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Sunamganj Awami League Vice President Golam Rabban said people will face starvation if test relief is not started soon.

Public Prosecutor Humayun Kabir Jahanur said the government is aware of the grave situation.

"We hope steps will be taken soon as the Prime Minister assured Whip Fazlul Haque Aspia (of special allocations)".

Sunamganj Pourashava Chairman Mominul Moudjin demanded proper steps to permanently control recurring floods in Sunamganj district, a rice bowl rich in fish resources also.

Anjali Ali, Chairman of Mohanpur Union Parishad in Sunamganj Sadar upazila flood control should be above politics. All political parties should join efforts to control floods in the district.

The 'Citizens Committee for Protecting Haor People' at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka on Saturday demanded immediate steps by the government and international aid agencies including the World Food Programme to save the 17 lakh people of Sunamganj.

Its leaders said over 1000 square kilometre area covering 84 unions in 10 upazilas were badly hit by floods this year. The crop loss stood at over Tk 450 crore. But the government sanctioned only 1000 tons of rice and Tk two crore. These are negligible compared to the needs, they said.

The Citizens Committee also held a press conference in Sylhet to raise demands for more assistance for the flood affected people.

PHOTO: STAR

Flood-hit dist faces food crisis

Political leaders demand test relief in 10 Sunamganj upazilas, steps against WDB officials for ill-planned dykes in haors

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, back from Sunamganj

SYLHET: Nurul Gani at Hashkuri village in Sunamganj Sadar upazila has barely two weeks' food for his seven-member family.

He is worried how to survive till the next harvest a year later.

The early flood took away ready-for-harvest Boro paddy on three acres, the only food crop in a year.

Amir Uddin at Chhoyhara village in Jagannathpur upazila says the situation will become serious in about three weeks.

"There will be no food and work. The lands will remain under water for over seven months.

"I just looked on helplessly as the Boro fields reeled under water in 2-3 days", he said.

"We did not face such a situation even after the 1988 deluge, which came after harvest", he says.

Nurul Gani and Amir Uddin are among several lakh people in Sunamganj district, a low-lying haor area, who lost their entire paddy crop.

All the ten upazilas in the district have been affected by the floods in April-May.

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Boro fields are now vast sheets of water. The photo was taken from Diara upazila on Tuesday.

65 injured in BNP factional clashes in Kushtia, Barisal

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 65 people were injured as BNP factions clashed in Kushtia and Barisal.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reported that at least 50 persons were injured, 10 of them seriously

in a clash between two factions of ruling BNP at village Kazihata in Bheramara upazila on Monday night.

Two groups, one led by Awal and the other led by Dhalu were engaged in a rivalry for a long time over establishment of supremacy in the area.

Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash. Police rushed and brought the situation under control and arrested four of both the groups from the spot.

They are Minarul, Faruk, Farid and Abdur Rahman. All were sent to jail.

Both the groups ransacked 25 houses and looted valuables.

Of the injured, Ali, 55, Zohurul, 40, Marium, 70, Nizam, 45, Jamal, 28, Bholu, 35, Mayen, 50, were admitted to local health complex.

Police superintendent of Kushtia, Saiful Islam visited the area.

Our Barisal Correspondent reported that 15 persons were injured in BNP factional clashes in Gournadi upazila on Tuesday morning.

Supporters of Ward No 8 unit president of BNP Jamal Sharif attacked their party leader and Ward No 8 commissioner Golam Morshed Parua, according to police.

There had been a long standing feud between the two ruling party leaders over establishment of influence in the area and municipal election. The clash lasted for about an hour till police arrived on the spot and took control of the situation.

Fourteen persons of both the groups were injured in the clash.

In another incident, Jatiyatabadi Chhata Dal (JCD) leader and a student of Gournadi Government College Sujon Khalifa, 18, was beaten in Boradia area of Gournadi by the upazila Judo Dal joint convenor Rahim Howlader and his men on Monday.

Afzal was murdered on May 4 by unidentified assailants.

The clash began when Awal's men beat and injured Dhalu's man Zohurul, 50, during an altercation at a tea stall at about 9:30 pm.

As the news spread, Dhalu's men rushed there and locked in a clash with Awal's men for two hours.

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'Drug queen' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Police on Tuesday arrested drug queen Banu Barua, 49, from Debarish Nagar in the town.

Banu led an organised gang which smuggled locally made liquor to other parts of the country through Chittagong for long, said Sub Inspector Asheek, who led the special drive to nab her.

She faces several cases, the SI said. She was produced before court, which sent her to jail, court sources said.

Wife of Banu Barua, Banu was arrested earlier but she got released under bail, police said.

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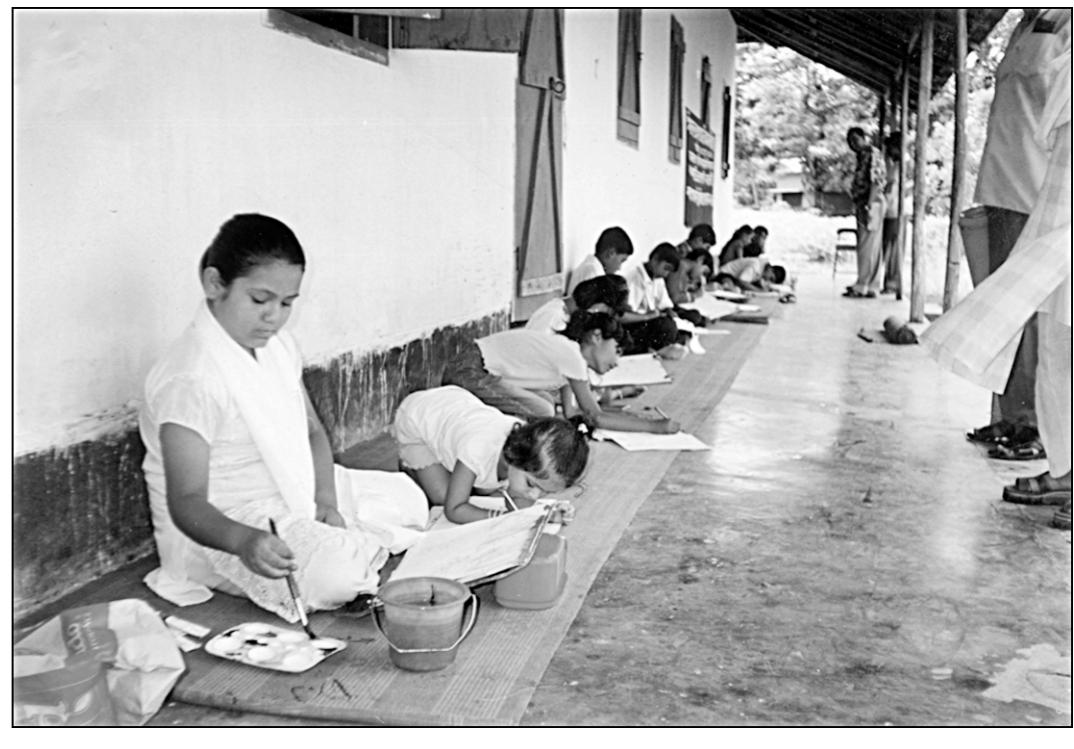
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A different art competition



CHILDREN DEPICT VIOLATION OF CHILD RIGHTS... Twenty-five children at a painting competition on child rights held at a school at Patuakhali town depict others like them doing hard and risky work. They drew paintings showing children working at welding factory, lifting heavy weight at bus terminals and using electric appliances and such other risky things. The meet, organised by a local NGO-- SDA-- on Monday, was followed by a discussion meeting where officials including Additional Deputy Commissioner Baytur Rashid and human rights activists spoke.

ASP rescues OC from public wrath

Alleged killer released

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria