

SNAPS

**CU White Panel factions united**  
CU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of three factions of the ruling BNP-Jamaat backed White Panel in Chittagong University (CU) got united ahead of the Syndicate election scheduled to be held on June 30.  
Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury organised a joint meeting of the three factions at his office on Tuesday resulting in the merger.  
Among others, Pro-VC Professor M Shamsuddin, ex Pro-VC Professor M Badiul Alam, Professor Dr Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury and Professor Dr Abul Kalam Azad were present at the meeting.

**Medicine gutted**  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Medicine worth four lakh taka of the Civil Surgeon's (CS) office here was gutted on Wednesday.  
Fire fighters here and local people extinguished the fire after frantic efforts for two hours.  
The fire originated from electric short circuit, the CS office sources said.

**4 hurt in Jessore road mishap**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Four persons including an army captain of the Khulna unit of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) were injured in a road accident at Noapara in Abhoyanagar, Jessore on Tuesday.  
The injured were admitted to Jessore Combined Military Hospital (CMH).  
According to AC (Traffic) of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), the accident occurred when a pick-up van hit a roadside tree due to rash driving. The injured were coming to Khulna from Jessore, KMP source said. The source declined to disclose the names of the injured.



Belal in white shirt giving instruction to his workers, left, and female workers giving finishing touch while producing plastic pots, right.



PHOTO: STAR

# Youth becomes self-reliant by dint of sincerity, hard work

## He changes lot by making plastic pots from waste polythene, plastic of dustbins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Here is a story of an unemployed youth who attained economic emancipation by dint of sincerity, hard work and determination within a short period of time.

Once a popular student leader of Syedpur College, Belaluddin Shah was passing hard days after passing BA examination in 1993.

Hailing from Digoldangi village in Songolshi union of Sadar upazila, Belal had to shoulder the responsibility of the family of his marginal farmer father, Gamirullah Shah just after his sudden death. Belal moved from

one office to another office in search of a job, but in vain.

When he was completely frustrated, one of his college friends came to his rescue. Shoel Choudhury of WAPDA Nayahut area in Syedpur municipality was possessing six plastic pot dice machines. But he could not make good use of the machines because he was preoccupied with other activities. It was 1998 when he gave the dice machines to Belal and advised him to get established in life by taking the opportunity. But he gave Belal a condition. Once Belal becomes established in life, he will have to pay 12,000 taka in six installments as price of Soheli's six

dice machines. Belal agreed.

"I got a new life. Soheli was a friend in need," said Belal highly appreciating his friend's noble gesture.

When this correspondent asked him to tell his success story, he narrated this way, "I had a piece of land at East Botlagari village with a good communication system with Syedpur and other towns. I decided to set up many mini workshop here with a small capital. I also took power connection to operate my machines," he said. "I inspired poor women, old people and some takais to collect waste polythenes and broken plastic pots from dustbins and heaps of waste," Belal continued.

"I began to purchase the waste materials at the cost of 4-6 taka per kg, according to the quality which enabled each supplier to earn 50-80 taka per day, he went on saying.

"My workers washed, dried and melted the polythenes in drums to produce solid polythene lumps. Then the lumps were cut into pieces to produce containers of tooth power, pickle, ointment, cosmetic through the dice

machines," described smiling Belal.

"I took no bank loan from bank or any non-governmental organisation (NGO)," Belal said. At first Belal employed five labourers. He also worked like a labourer. By dint of his great labour, patience and determination, Belal succeeded to repay the price of six dice machines in installments by the year 2001. At present Belal is the owner of 19 dice machines. Now 40 labourers work in two shifts in his workshop, built of bricks instead of thatched house.

Belal also told this correspondent that each of his labourer earned 50-60 taka a day. There are also six female labourers for the finishing work. Six women workers for washing and drying the waste polythene. The female workers earn 40 taka each daily.

Belal disclosed that from this business he maintains his family of four members in a nice way. He also purchased cultivable lands. "This way I also help protect environment," Belal said. He time and again expressed his heartfelt gratitude to his friend Soheli for whom he changed his lot.

## Problems grip Gopalganj municipality

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

The town dwellers of Gopalganj Poursabha are being deprived of the basic amenities of a class one municipality.

The municipality was established on July 20, 1972 when Gopalganj was a subdivisional town. Afterwards, Gopalganj was made a district with its 92,000 population. Then the municipality was converted into "A" grade municipality. Its area was also enlarged up to 8 square miles with a population of 1 lakh 50 thousand.

But the facilities of a first class

municipality were absent. Absence of proper drainage system, deplorable condition of roads, inadequate streetlights, lack of proper sanitary system, menace of mosquito and pye dogs, traffic jam and absence of recreational facilities are some of the problems worth mentioning.

As a result, the life of the town dwellers became miserable.

Water-logging after mild rain is a regular feature here due to silted drains. In many areas there is no drain at all. Mohammadpara, Miapara, Moulavipara, Gutepara, Nabinbagh areas are the worst affected areas.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of the quiz competition pose for photograph with the officials of the Centre for Communication and Development who organised the orientation programme on HIV/AIDS at Bogra on Tuesday.

## 'Help combat HIV/AIDS'

### Speakers at an orientation programme at Bogra urge students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Speakers at an orientation programme here on Thursday afternoon called upon the students, specially female students to play their active role in combating HIV/AIDS.

The orientation programme was held at the conference room of Begum Rokeya Hall in Bogra Government Azizul Haque College. It was participated by girl students only.

Speakers expressed their great concern over the unhealthy trend of students' addiction to drug, premarital sex and unsafe blood transfusion activities. As a result, they become more and more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. They called for united efforts to combat the deadly disease for national uplift.

Vice Principal of the college Prof. Abdur Rahman was present as chief guest, while Associate Professor of English Department Osman Gani was in the chair.

Among others, Programme Coordinator of the Centre for Communication and Development (CCD) Shahana Parveen, Information and Documentation Management Coordinator Mir Mohammad Hasan Abdullah, Regional Coordinator journalist Hasibur Rahman Bilu, noted physician Dr Samir Hossain Mishu, Assistant Superintendent of Begum Rokeya Hall Shorifa Rahman, college unit president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Shahabul Alam Piplu and college unit president of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir Noore Alam addressed.

Programme Officer of HIV Programme of CARE-Bangladesh Ahmed Shahriar and Abdul Gaffar conducted the technical sessions of the programme.

Later, a quiz competition on HIV/AIDS related issues was held with the students of Begum Rokeya Hall and prizes were distributed among the winners.

## Nursery business gains popularity in Shariatpur

UNB, Shariatpur

Nursery business is gaining popularity in the district. About 500 small and big nurseries have been set up in different areas of six upazilas where at least 3,000 workers are engaged in earning their livelihood.

Of these, Fulkuri Nursery in Shariatpur municipality is the biggest and rich one having different variety of plants.

Commenting on the business, owner of Saudia Nursery Md Abdul Halim said he set up the nursery on 60 decimals of land after returning from abroad where he served as gardener. With the initial working capital of Tk 70,000, he started the business few months' back and now the capital stands at about Tk 5 lakh.

He raised various species of saplings including flower,

mango, blackberry, quazi guava, koro, mehangoni and eucalyptus in his nursery.

Halim said he sells 1,000 to 1,500 saplings daily and earns a net profit of around Tk 20,000 per month. This has encouraged other people of the area to take up the occupation, he added.

Alongside private initiative, the government has also taken up massive tree plantation programme though setting up nurseries in six upazilas, including district headquarters, in a move to maintain ecological balance.

Various non-government organisations have also taken up tree plantation programme on both sides of the roads and highways and on the premises of offices and educational institutions.

## 2 killed, 9 hurt in Lalmonirhat road crash

UNB, Lalmonirhat

Two people were killed and nine others injured in a road accident near Bandhu movie house on Lalmonirhat-Burimari Highway in Aditmari upazila yesterday.

The dead are Anil Chandra, 35, and Sakina, 15.

The mishap took place when a minibus carrying the body of a garment worker from Dhaka skidded off the road and fell into a roadside pond at about 10:00am.

Anil died on the spot and ten others received injuries in the mishap. Of the injured, four were admitted to Sadar Hospital where Sakina succumbed to her injuries at noon.

Five other injured are now undergoing treatment at Aditmari Upazila Health Complex.

A case was filed with local police.