

NEWS SNAPS

Lightning kills boy

UNB, Thakurgaon
A boy was killed by thunderbolt at village Sandari in Ranishongkoil upazila on Wednesday.

Witnesses said lightning struck Farhad Hossain, 15, a student of class ten while he was working in a crop field with his father.

Five with pistol, bullets held

UNB, Jhalakati
Five people along with a pistol and bullets were arrested from the house of a victorious Union Parishad (UP) member candidate at Nobogram union in Sadar upazila on Thursday.

Police raided the house of newly-elected UP member Mujibor Haq Akand and arrested Jewel, 28, Monir, 25, Rana, 22, M Sahin, 23 and Labu. Police recovered a pistol and five rounds of bullet searching Labu. An arms case was filed.

SUST stalemate deepens

Liaison committee wants VC's exit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The stalemate at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) in Sylhet has deepened now.

The liaison committee of teachers, officers and employees, at a press conference on Saturday, has reiterated demand for immediate resignation of vice chancellor (VC) of the university, while another group of teachers termed the demand as unacceptable and contradictory.

The liaison committee went on a non-cooperation movement against the VC, while students under the banner of Common Students Forum were pressing for immediate resumption of academic activities. Students organised a rally protesting the teachers' movement.

A group of teachers at a meeting with Dr Habibul Ahsan, a syndicate member in the chair termed the agitation as 'unacceptable' saying most of the 10-point demands were already been met, while rest demands will be discussed at a

Syndicate meeting scheduled to be held on March 23. They called for withdrawal of the agitation programme till the Syndicate meeting.

The agitating group lodged general diaries (GD) with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station against proctor Dr Golam Ali Haider Chowdhury and Assistant Proctor Murshed Chowdhury on charge of provoking students against teachers at their rally.

Convenor of liaison committee Dr Akhtarul Islam read out a written statement in the press conference. It was addressed, among others, by employees' union president Abdul Hai, teachers' association general secretary (GS) Hasanuzzaman Shyamol and ex-GS Dr Kabir Hossain, officers' association GS Khairul Akhtar Chowdhury. All of them alleged that the crisis was only due to inefficiency of the VC.

Students will hold a rally on Sunday which will be followed by a procession on the campus.

Earlier, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Teachers'

Association (SUSTTA) announced a programme of 48-hour ultimatum. Afterwards, they went on an indefinite strike on March 9 to press for VC's resignation. They were agitating for promotion, regularisation and other service related demands of teachers and others.

Later, officers and employees of the university extended their support to the demands of teachers. They also wanted fulfillment of their demands.

An influential quarter inside the university was reportedly behind the crisis.

Professor Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman, VC of the university told The Daily Star that most of the demands were already been met. He went on saying that a certain quarter was actively trying to create an unstable situation on the campus. "I shall not accept any undue demand," he said. A number of important issues will be discussed in the Syndicate meeting on March 23," he further said. "I hope many problems will be solved there," he added.

Deceased gets highest vote in UP polls!

UNB, Comilla

A chairman candidate who died three days before the Union Parishad (UP) election in Sidlai union of Brahmanpara upazila got the highest votes.

Abdul Awal died of heart attack on March 10 but he got highest 5,513 votes in the election held on March 13.

Despite his death, his supporters continued their election campaign remembering his valuable contribution and sacrifice for the people of the union which resulted in his unprecedented victory.

They later brought out a big victory procession. They burst into tears for his sad demise.

Local election office announced elected the deceased's nearest candidate Nazim Uddin who secured second highest 4,729 votes.

Women's Day observed

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

International Women's Day was observed recently in Dinajpur in a befitting manner, says a press release.

Prothom Alo Bandhu Sava, Mohila Parisad, district women's affairs directorate and different non-governmental organisations (NGOs) chalked out programmes which included colourful rallies and discussions.

Prothom Alo Aid Fund for acid victims organised a rally in the district town to build public opinion against acid terrorism and to raise fund for victims.

Leaders of Mohila Awami League (AL) and Mohila Parisad, members of Prothom Alo Dinajpur Bandhu Sava, ex-cadets associations took part in the rally. Dinajpur municipality chairman Syed Mosaddeque Hossain, president of Mohila Parisad, Dinajpur Azadi Hye and general secretary of Dinajpur Press Club Nabi Dulal lead the rally.

A discussion titled 'Stop Acid, Save Women' followed the rally which was presided over by Azadi Hye, president of Mohila Parisad, Dinajpur. Syed Mosaddeque Hossain, chairman, Dinajpur municipality spoke as the chief guest, while Md Moslehuddin Ahmed, deputy commissioner

(DC), Dinajpur addressed as special guest. Speakers lauded the role of Prothom Alo to build public opinion to uproot acid terrorism from the society.

District women's affairs direc-

torate, Surjo Shikha, Palli Sree and various NGOs organised processions and discussions where NGO officials and high government officials participated.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Sathkhira chapter of Prothom Alo Bandhu Sava parade the main street of the district town in a colourful procession to mark International Women's Day on March 8.

Certificate awarding ceremony

The certificate awarding ceremony of a six-month business administration training programme jointly organised by Khulna University (KU) and British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) was held on March 8 at a local hotel in Khulna, says a press release.

Pro-Vice chancellor of the university Professor Dr Syed Zabid Hossain handed over certificates among 17 BATB managers who successfully completed the course. The course was conducted by Business Administration Discipline of the university. Dr Nazrul Islam, Head of Business Administration Discipline of the university, QM Shahed, head of Human Resources, BATB were present.

The training programme started in July 2002 with an aim to provide structured business knowledge to functional managers of BATB working in Kushtia. The programme was divided in two semesters (3 months each).

The training programme ended in February 2003.



Participants of a business administration training programme for 17 British America Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) managers working in Kushtia pose for photograph during the certificate awarding ceremony on successful completion of the programme. The training was jointly organised recently by Khulna University (KU) and BATB on KU campus.

Unocal president opens CRP patients' hostel in Moulvibazar

Andrew L Fawthrop, President of Unocal Bangladesh recently inaugurated a patient's hostel of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), Gobindapur in Moulvibazar, says a press release.

Valerie Taylor, CRP chief coordinator, Md Mosleh Uddin, deputy director (DD), Department of Social Services, Moulvibazar; CRP volunteers, Unocal officials and patients were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Andrew in his speech praised Valerie Taylor and the volunteers of CRP for their sincere and dedicated work. "This institution is like a beacon in the darkness for many people creating hope and opportunity for them," he said to the audience in his address. Unocal is proud to be a partner of an organisation like CRP.

Valerie Taylor thanked Unocal for its support to refurbish and restructure the patients' hostel and three guesthouses of the sub-centre.

Six policemen killed in 35 days in southwestern region

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Six policemen were killed and 13 others critically injured by miscreants in southwestern (SW) region in 35 days this year, according to press reports and police sources.

Police in the region are now discharging their duties amid panic and insecurity due to killing of six of their colleagues from February 5 till March 11 this year.

Murder of two constables Ramesh and Shariful recently heightened the tension. They were killed in a bomb attack by unidentified assailants near Sheikhpara branch of Janata Bank (JB) in Sonadanga thana of Khulna district.

Those killed by miscreants during the period are: Constables K Fazlul Huq and Abdul Motalib. They were stabbed to death near Itagachcha police outpost in

Sathkhira Sadar upazila on the night of February 5.

Constable Shaheb Ali of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) was killed on February 27. He came under attack when he and a sub-inspector went to Khalishpur to nab a criminal.

Traffic sergeant Ariful Islam of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) was critically injured and died while on way to hospital. He was injured as powerful bombs blasted outside the international trade fair at Khulna Circuit House ground on March 1.

Thirteen other policemen Ahad Ali, Abdul Karim, Alamgir Hossain, Mofizur Rahman, Nazir Huq, Shahidul, Serajul Huq, Harun-ar-Bashid, Monwarul Alam, Rahman, Paritosh, Moniruzzaman and Nizamuddin were critically injured by miscreants during the period. They are now fighting for life.



Andrew L Fawthrop, president and managing director (MD), Unocal Bangladesh recently inaugurated a patients' hostel of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) at Gobindapur in Moulvibazar. Unocal contributed US 15,000 dollar for uplift works of the centre. The ceremony was attended, among others, by Valerie Taylor, chief coordinator of CRP, Md Mosleh Uddin, deputy director (DD), Department of Social Services, Moulvibazar, CRP volunteers and UBL officials.