

NEWS SNAP

ICS cadres beat RU student

A RU CORRESPONDENT
 Islami Chattra Shibir (ICS) cadres who are outsiders on Rajshahi University (RU) campus beat up a student of Mass Communication Department inside his class room on Tuesday noon.
 The victim, Habib-al-Mamun, is a third year student of the department. Immediately after the incident he was rushed to the university medical centre with critical injuries. Shibir cadres attacked Raju because he protested while they were teasing his girlfriend.

Shibir cadres attack Rajshahi Jubo Dal leader, his mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A leader of Jatiyotabadi Jubo Dal and his mother were critically injured when Shibir cadres attacked their house in Budhpara area of the city on Tuesday.

The attackers also ransacked and looted the house.

Md Dalim, vice president of Jubo Dal unit at No 30 ward of the city and his mother Hajera Begum were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Dalim filed a case with Motihar thana accusing six Shibir men Khushi, Biplob, Fazar Ali, Shahidul, Altaf and Iqbal.

Indian folk dancers win hearts of Rajshahi audience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Indian folk dancers enthralled a large number of audience at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital auditorium here on Monday night.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Assistant High Commission of India in Rajshahi jointly organised the programme of Punjabi folk songs and "Bhangra" folk dance. The show was aimed at promoting and reviving culture, music, theatre and tradition of Indian Punjab province.

About a dozen celebrated artists of 'Virasat Entertainers' of India led by GPS Ahluwalia, one of the leading exponents of Bhangra dance in India presented a number of Punjabi folk songs and folk dances of Bhangra, Gidha and Bindua in the musical soiree.

The cultural programme began with a prayer-song of renowned Indian folk researcher and lyricist Fakir Sultan Bahu at around 7.30pm and ended at 10pm.

Elite and a large number of youths enjoyed the programme.

Scores flee Netrokona village as feuding BNP-backed men file 'false' cases

MORSHED ALI KHAN,
back from Netrokona

Agricultural activities at a soil-rich village in Netrokona have come to a near standstill as more than 150 day labourers and farmers have fled their homes fearing arrests after a BNP-backed feuding group filed cases against them following the Union Parishad (UP) election.

The UP election was held in Dolpha union of Kendua thana in Netrokona district on February 22 in which a rebel candidate from the ruling BNP, Shamsul Huda Bachhu won convincingly. Families of these innocent farmers and day laborers are facing

extreme hardship as wage earners running away from home for a crime they did not commit.

Tension started to mount among the supporters of two losing candidates at village Jolley just after the election. On one side, Anwar Alam Khan Mannu, the foster son of Nurul Amin Talukdar the BNP's local member of parliament (MP) and on the other, the former UP Chairman and an Awami League (AL) supporter Ashim accused each other of creating tension in the area.

Following series of altercations between the two groups, one person named Hashem filed a case with the Kendua police station, 13

kilometres away from the spot. On March 6, Hashem accused "25 people and many others" of "rioting, extortion, attempted murder, theft and grievous assault" and filed a case under the Bangladesh Penal Code.

Then on March 13 Anwar Alam Khan Mannu filed another case accusing "12 people and many others" of various criminal acts. The second case was filed three days after an armed gang of supporters of Mannu waylaid supporters of Ashim and fired 'at least two gunshots' in the air, witnesses at Jolleysaid.

Police officials in Kendua openly admitted that as per their

investigation the accusations were fabricated and false but they were 'forced' to act. Even supporters of Mannu admitted that the cases were fabricated to "rid the area of Ashim's elements".

With the naming of the accused persons and "many others" in the case, police now had the mandate to arrest anyone from village Jolley. More than 150 day laborers have since fled their homes, bringing agricultural activities in the soil-rich Jolley village to a near standstill.

On Monday, the remote village looked pristine with rains pouring down on its muddy earthen road. The village looked devoid of work-

ing men. Lush green paddy fields added textures to the landscape. Some local people said that the feud between the two families of Munna and Ashim had existed for a long time. Both the families are influential and well-off and small incidents during the February 22 UP election triggered an old rivalry.

"Mannu has the blessing of the local MP and the police cases and the actions were results of the same influence," said an elderly person in Jolley.

Headmaster of Rampur Anwara High School, SMTofazzal Hossain, a resident of the village said that local elite groups are trying to

bring in a negotiated settlement.

The Officer-in-Charge of Kendua police station, ABM Siddiqur Rahman said that they had information about a possible solution through negotiations.

"Ashim's family members are all well-educated people doing responsible jobs. They have social support and properties in the village," said Rahman adding that Manna is also quite influential in the area.

"Unless they come to shake each other's hands and forget differences there is little police can do," said Rahman.

Despite repeated attempts Manna could not be reached.

Over 12,000 ballot papers cancelled in Srimongal

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

Over 12,000 ballot papers have been cancelled in the Union Parishad (UP) elections in Srimongal upazila. Because of voters' mistakes, 4,527 ballots of chairman candidates and over 7,500 ballot papers of member (general and women) candidates have been cancelled, according to official sources.

Election control room sources in Srimongal said to The Daily Star that the votes had been cancelled in nine UPs of the upazila due to fault in folding ballot papers. More than one symbols got marked. So, polling officers declared these ballots cancelled.



MBA students of North South University pose for photograph in front of Chitagong Stock Exchange (CSE) Ltd on Sheikh Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chittagong. A 50-member delegation of MBA students of the university visited the CSE office recently.

Transport problem at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Transport problem is a regular feature in Rajshahi University (RU).

On Monday, suffering students went on rampage and attacked the university transport office when a bus went out of order.

Despite payment of Tk 180 as transport fee annually each and every student risks life while boarding the buses hanging.

There are only 25 old buses for transport of 25,000 students, 1,000 teachers and employers here. Out of 25, four buses were rejected several months ago, while the rest are backdated and operate with technical faults. Many buses have no door, windows and seats.

The university authorities collect Tk 30 lakh on average from the transport sector every year, according to university budget of the last few years.

On average annual expenditure in this sector is nearly Tk 1.50 crore, but the 'varsity authorities did not increase minimum facility in this sector.

BNP 'rebel' wins Moulvibazar by-election

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

A BNP rebel has been elected as the chairman of Kamalgonj municipality. He is Md Hasin Afroz Chowdhury.

By-election to the municipality was held on March 4 as the post of chairman fell vacant at the death of incumbent chairman Md Mohibur Rahman Chashi recently.

Election to the municipality was held on July 20 last year when BNP leader Mohibur was elected.

Four candidates contested in the by-election. Three of them belonged to BNP, but local BNP

nominated Nazmur Rahman Shahin, son of late chairman Mohibur Rahman Chashi as the party candidate.

Last year powerful BNP leader Hasin sought party nomination, but he was refused. Then he contested the July 20 election as a party rebel and secured second position. He again contested in the by-election and won the race.

An unofficial result says, Hasin Afroz Chowdhury secured 2,138 votes, while BNP candidate Nazmur Rahman Shahin obtained 1,634 and AL's advocate Azadur Rahman got 1,352 votes.

Egg sold at Tk 300?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Believe it or not, an egg was sold recently at Tk 300 in Shahidnagar bazaar of Patan Usher union of Kamalgonj upazila.

One person in the locality on March 3 donated an egg to Moulana Jamir Ali, Imam of Shahidnagar Jame Mosque. After Esha prayers the Imam decided to sale it in auction for development work of the mosque. Participating in the auction, one person offered Tk 300. Being the highest bidder, the egg was allocated for him.

However, on payment of money to the mosque fund, he donated the egg to the Imam to raise more fund.

4 unnatural deaths in Jessore

UNB, Jessore

Four unnatural deaths were recorded in Sadar upazila of Jessore on Thursday.

Police said Aminur Rahman, 28, son of Abdul Aziz of village Halbila in Sadar upazila was crushed under the wheels of a truck while crossing Jessore-Khulna highway.

Wahid, 4, son of Abdul Gafur of village Nongorpur in Sadar upazila fell sick when he took pesticides mistakenly. He died on way to hospital.

Marzina Khatoon, 17, daughter of Yunus Ali, of Jhumjhumur in Jessore town allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself due to stomach pain at her house.

Marzina, 30, domestic help of Abdul Majid and daughter of Abdus Sattar Mollah of village Damudompur in Kaliganj upazila was electrocuted when she was cooking food in an electric oven on the outskirts of the town.