

## SNAPS

## Body recovered

UNB, Chittagong

Body of a 50-year-old unidentified man was recovered from a drain near Madina Hotel at Bahaddarhat in the city on Monday.

Police recovered the bullet-riddled body wearing the dress of Buddhist priest at noon and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

## 117 unnatural deaths

UNB, Manikganj

About 117 unnatural deaths were recorded in Manikganj district last year.

Of the dead, 85 allegedly committed suicide, six electrocuted and four new born babies died mysteriously.

A hospital source said the number of suicide cases is on rise in the district.

## Loan for jobless youths

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Employment Bank disbursed Tk 22.40 lakh loan among 70 unemployed youths of Chapainawabganj district in the current fiscal year.

The loan were disbursed for poultry farming, pisciculture, cow fattening, light engineering and small trading.

## Advocacy meeting

UNB, Shariatpur

A daylong advocacy meeting for inclusion of religious leaders in the human resource development was held here at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner on Monday.

Organised by the Islamic Foundation, the meeting was chaired by its Deputy Director Rahmat Ullah.

## Bus dacoity in Rangamati, 6 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Armed dacoits stopped a bus at Thhandachhori on the Chittagong-Rangamati highway Sunday night and robbed Tk 2 lakh from passengers, injuring six of them.

Police said, eight dacoits stopped the Chittagong-bound bus (Chatta Metro-02-0207) from Rangamati at about 10 pm on gunpoint.

Of the injured, Py chha Pru Marma was admitted to Rangamati General Hospital and Abul Kalam alias Kalam Soudagor and Abdul Aleem were admitted to a Chittagong clinic with stab injuries.

The rest three were given first aid at Rangamati hospital.

## 30 pc DA, permanent pay commission demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The Sarkari Karmachari Samonny Parisahd, Magura held a rally on the premises of the local collectorate building yesterday to press its five-point demand including 30 per cent dearness allowance and formation of a permanent pay commission.

The rally was presided over by Zahidul Islam, a local leader of the Parishad.

After the rally they submitted a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Kamaluddin Bhuyan received the memorandum.

Later, they also brought out a procession that paraded the main roads of the town.



PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

A recurring problem, but encroachers do not care. This is a road in Block C in Shahjalal satellite town in Sylhet after Sunday's downpour. Local people say the water-logging is due to illegal occupation of almost all the canals by influentials.

## Anti-party activities

## 7 AL, BCL leaders expelled in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Seven leaders of Awami League (AL) and its student front Chhatra League including district AL joint secretary Amanul Haque Chento have been expelled from the party.

The decision was taken at an emergency extended meeting of AL district unit, held here on Monday night, said a party press release yesterday.

The other expelled leaders are Mahbulul Bari Chawdury Monto, science and technology secretary of district AL; former vice-presidents of district Chhatra League Shanu

Islam and Sirajul Islam Ferdous; and Chhatra League leaders Hasan Sarwar (ex-VP of Brahmanbaria Government College), Iqbal Hossain Liton and Selim.

The press release said they were expelled for involvement in anti-party activities and in incidents that marred the Brahmanbaria town Jubo League conference last week. They did these at the instigation of the ruling party, the press release said.

When contacted, AL district secretary advocate Lutfal Hai said a report on expulsion of the party men has been sent to the AL central committee.

## Mudslide kills 4 in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two labourers were killed in a mudslide at Malnichhera tea garden in the suburb of Sylhet city on Monday, caused by downpour.

The victims are Bishakha Naik and her son-in-law Moni Naik, 13. They died when their house collapsed due to the mudslide.

Another woman labourer, injured in the incident, was admitted to hospital.

In another incident a mother and her son were electrocuted at Hetimganj village under Golapganj upazila the same day.

Sohag Miah, 42, died when he came in touch with a

live wire lying in front of his house. His 60 year-old mother also met the tragic end of her life as she came to save her son.

## Workers union demand Resume BRTC double-decker bus service in Bogra

UNB, Bogra

BRTC (Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation) Workers-Employees Union has started movement in Bogra district demanding reintroduction of double-decker bus service in the northern region.

The union brought out a demonstration and held a rally in the town on Monday. It submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) seeking the Prime Minister's intervention for resumption of BRTC double-decker bus service.

They also demanded 10 more new BRTC buses for the Bogra depot.

The BRTC double-decker bus service in the northern region was withdrawn after announcement of its closure on June 5 by the Communication Minister.

However, BRTC bus service between Bogra and Noagaon that was suspended by the private bus workers resumed on Monday under police protection.

## Rajshahi small traders vow to stop VAT payment

## Rally, procession against corruption

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi Babosayee Oikya Parishad, a forum of small traders and retailers, at a rally in the city on Monday declared that its members will not pay VAT (value added tax).

A procession was brought out after the rally, held at the Masjid Chhatra.

Speakers at the rally called upon the government to withdraw VAT from retail sale. VAT collection by

the government will not necessary if corruption is controlled, they said.

Presided by president of the Parishad Mosarraf Hossain Akhanji, the rally was addressed by its general secretary Farid Mahmud Hasan, Alhaj Zillur Rahman, Atahar Ali, Nurun Nabi Lul, Binal Kr Sankar, Saidur Rahman Chandan and Abu Tayeb Rokon.

They said VAT has a chain reaction from production to retail sale as it increases prices of commodities.

This hampers growth of small industries.

A large number of small traders and retailers joined the rally and the procession with banners. They kept their shops shut from 2 pm to 6 pm for the programmes.

It looked like an undeclared hartal in the city as most of the shops remained closed during the demonstrations. Many city dwellers said the unprecedented unity of traders surprised them.

## Int'l confce on safe rural water supply opens

## Delegates visit two areas to examine Rangamati water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Participants at the five-day conference of Asia Regional Network (ARN) of donors and their partner NGOs working for rural safe water supply and sanitation visited Shilchhori and Dogiachhari areas in the hills in the last two days.

In the areas, they saw flow of water from hills and examined how to use it for supply to houses in the hills through pipe.

The conference, attended by representatives from India,

Pakistan, Nepal and the United Kingdom, began on Sunday.

The conference is reviewing last year's experience of ARN in other countries and examining how to improve rural water supply in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). It will make suggestions in his regard, conference sources said.

GreenHill and Water Aid Bangladesh (WAB), both NGOs, jointly organised the conference this year for the first time in Bangladesh.

Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Maniklal Dewan inaugurated the conference.

The inaugural session was also addressed by, among others,

Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Jafar Ahmed Khan, Superintendent of Police Humayun Kabir, WAB Country Director Timothy J. Claydon, Water Aid London chapter's director Valinda Calaguas and Water Aid United Kingdom (UK)'s Asia Regional Manager Leana Chowdary and Mong Thoai Ching, executive director of GreenHill.

Speaking on the occasion, Dewan sought co-operation from donors to supply safe water to the poor tribesmen in the hill areas.

## One killed, 4 policemen hurt as jeep carrying bank money plunges

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

One person was killed and seven including four policemen were injured when a jeep carrying Tk 50 lakh of Sonali Bank and a police van skidded off the road as the jeep collided head-on with a truck at West Rajoir on Monday.

The jeep driver, Abdul Gafur, died on the spot.

The injured include bank cashiers Nurul Islam and A Rouf; and policemen A Barek, Haroon-ur-Rashid, Promothlal and Milton.

They were at first admitted to Rajoir Health Complex and then shifted to Madaripur Sadar Hospital in critical conditions, police said. The rest were given first aid at the health complex.

The money belonging to the Tekerhat branch of Sonali Bank and contained in a sack was recovered, Rajoir than Sub-inspector Abul

Malek told this correspondent. The money was being taken to Madaripur, he said.

The police van was escorting the jeep.

Abul Hossain, Manager of Sonali Bank, Tekerhat branch, filed a case.

## Social worker dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Suprova Dewan, a social worker and founder of Sant Treajjas school, died of old age complications at her Pathorghata residence on Sunday. She was 81.

Her body was buried yesterday at Rajbari cemetery. She left behind her husband, a son and three daughters.

## JCD drive to start 'activities' at 4 Ctg govt colleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders' visit to the campuses of four government colleges in the city and holding of rallies during HSC examinations on Monday evoked criticism from students and protests by its rival student body Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The visit to Chittagong College, Mohsin College, City College and Commerce College was part of a drive to start JCD activities there. Central president of JCD Shahab Uddin Laltu led the leaders and activists of Chittagong city unit of JCD, ruling BNP's student wing, during the visit.

JCD has no unit in the colleges. Students unions at Chittagong College and Mohsin College are now led by Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student wing of ruling 4-party alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami and those at City College and Commerce by BCL, student wing of opposition Awami League (AL).

The JCD leaders in the rallies said that they want co-existence of all student organisations at the colleges and to do "fair student politics". They announced that JCD

committees would be formed there soon.

Sources said, prior to the visit, JCD central leaders expressed their discontent over non-existence of JCD committee and activities at the colleges.

Local BCL and ICS termed the visit a "show-down" and expressed resentment over it.

BCL leaders also brought out a protest procession at City College immediately after the visit of JCD leaders.

BCL leaders also alleged that the "show down" was made violating Section 144 when HSC examinations were going on at the colleges.

Many students and examinees also criticised holding of rallies by JCD during examinations.

ICS is in control of the student unions at Chittagong College and Mohsin College along with that of Chittagong University since 1986.

ICS also captured the student union at Commerce College at that time. But BCL re-established its supremacy in its students union in 1988.

City College students union is led by BCL since independence of the country.

## Baghabari power plant out of order since June 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Power generation in 71 MW Baghabari power plant in the district is suspended since June 2 due to mechanical problem.

Prior to the suspension, its power generation had stopped thrice in seven days due to trouble in a turbine blade, sources at the plant said.

They said they are doing necessary repair work but could not say when the plant will resume generation.

Suspension of generation resulted in frequent power outage in the entire northern region.

The diesel-based plant was set up in 1999.

## T-aman target

UNB, Pirojpur

A scheme has been taken up to bring 6,600 hectares of under transplanted aman (T-aman) paddy cultivation in four upazilas of the district in the current season with an output target of 6,996 metric tons (MTs).

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension, 450 hectares will be cultivated in Sadar, 100 hectares in Kaukhali, 4,000 hectares in Nesarabad and 2,050 hectares in Nazirpur upazilas.