

## SNAPS

## Varsity student drowns in waterfall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A student of Khulna University drowned in the well of Madhabkunda waterfall in Barlekha upazila in Moulvibazar district on Wednesday.

The body was recovered after a five-hour search, official sources said. Shahed along with two friends-Jony and Murad-went there on a tour.

Out of curiosity, he got down in the well and drowned within minutes, local people said.

## Four 'criminals' held with revolver

UNB, Sylhet

Four alleged criminals were arrested with a revolver from a restaurant in the city on Wednesday.

They are Jubed Ahmed, 20, Sajjad Ahmad, 19, Rubel Ahmed, 22, and Belal Hossain, 18. They told police that they are members of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and were preparing for mugging, police said.

## JCD attack on BCL leaders on DU campus protested

UNB, Barguna

The local unit of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a procession in the town yesterday protesting the attack on the party leaders and workers on the Dhaka University campus.

They also held a rally after the procession.

Among others, BCL district unit acting president Enayet Karim Murad, acting general secretary Abul Kalam Azad and organising secretary Touhidunnabi addressed the rally.

Pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists attacked a BCL procession on the DU campus on Thursday, leaving 50 people injured.

## Judge gets death threat for acquitting accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmohanthal

A judge has been threatened with death for acquitting some persons found not guilty in a rape case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Akbar Hossain Mridha filed a general diary (GD No 948) with Aditmari thana on July 27 after he was threatened with death and loss of job over telephone.

When contacted, he acknowl-

edged the threat and said he apprehended assault by men of the complainant. He said he acquitted the accused as the rape case proved false after a long hearing.

The issue became a talk of the town as pro-ruling party lawyers led by the complainant's sister-in-law advocate Fazul Haq boycotted the judge's court and observed a three-day token hunger strike from July 19 protesting the verdict, delivered on

April 12.

In the verdict, the judge acquitted local Jubo League activist Dulal Hossain and seven others in a rape case filed by Shefali Khatun, daughter of Azizul Haq of Bhada village in Aditmari upazila.

The rape case was filed one month after a dacoity was committed at the house of Azizul Haq on August 29, 2000.

The dacoity case is still on trial.

## Snarl-up at Bhomra land port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Import-export at Bhomra land port is greatly hampered due to slow unloading of goods on the Bangladesh side.

About 1,000 loaded trucks are stranded on the other side of the border, sources said.

Customs authorities and clearing and forwarding agents blamed the slow unloading on lack of warehouse and dumping space.

On an average about 100 trucks enter Bangladesh every day while only 40 per cent of those goes back after unloading, the sources said.

There has been a snarl-up of loaded trucks on the 12-kilometre road from Bhomra to Basirhat in West Bengal.

The Clearing & Forwarding (C&F) Agents Association has engaged 25 volunteers to help truckers unload their vehicles, but little can be done to ease the situation due to lack of infrastructure facilities, they said.

Trade with India through Bhomra land port increased since its reopening on June 21 after a prolonged closure.

Indian trucks usually carry wheat, maize, tomato, mango, vegetable seeds, pulse and stones.

The C&F association repeatedly appealed to the authorities con-

cerned to build a warehouse and create a 'dumping station' at the land port, but to no effect, they said.

The association also sought permission to setup a private dumping station, but to no response, they said.

## Flood affects 15,000 families in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

About 15,000 families have been affected by the recent flood in six upazilas of the district.

According to the district Flood Control Room, 14,114 dwelling houses and 35 educational institutions were damaged in Bera, Sujanager, Faridpur, Bhargura, Chatmohor and Sadar upazilas.

Besides, cracks have developed on various parts of the flood protection embankment in the district.

Standing crops on vast tracts of land washed away by the floodwater, causing huge loss to the farmers.

Sources at the district Disaster and Relief Department said they have so far distributed only Tk 30,000 and 60 metric tons of rice among the flood victims.

## Seminar on waste management held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

A day-long workshop on creating awareness about management of solid waste was held at VJ Government Boys High School on Monday.

It was jointly organised by Chuadanga Municipality, Municipal Support Unit (MSU) and the district LGED (Local Government and Engineering Department) office.

Mr Ashraf Ali, chairman of Chuadanga Pourashava, presided over the workshop. Deputy Commissioner Syed Mahbub Hasan the chief guest.

Among others, Chuadanga Civil Surgeon Dr Md Isahaq Ali; Rokonuddin Ahmed of MSU, Khulna; LGED Deputy Director Abdus Samad were present.

About 150 people from all walks of life, including social workers, journalists, traders, teachers and people's representatives took part in the workshop.

At the workshop, two areas of the town were selected where improved waste management system would be introduced at the first step. The whole town will be brought under improved waste management, speakers at the workshop said.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Jaflong in Sylhet district is famous for natural stones. Here stone collection is a source of income for many. Picture shows extractors collecting stones by buckets from the river.

## 3 held for Jubo League leader Rezaul murder in Jessore Police blame intra-party feud, PBCP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three young men have been arrested in connection with the murder of Jubo League leader Rezaul Islam.

The arrested persons—Zubair Hossain Litu, Sirajul Islam and Habibur Rahman—are being interrogated, police said.

Rezaul, a first class contractor of PWD and RHD, was shot dead from close range Wednesday morning few yards from Bablatala police outpost.

He was bound for the house of his cousin Rentu Chaklader, general secretary of Jessore district Jubo League, sources said.

Acting on the confession of Habibur Rahman, police on Thursday recovered Rezaul's motorbike from Jessore satellite

town.

Police recovered Rezaul's mobile phone and three used bullets of 2-2 bore revolver along with some leaflets of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) from the spot of the incident.

Meanwhile, a case has been recorded with Jessore Kotwali police without naming any one as accused.

After the murder, SI Harun-Rashid of the police outpost has been suspended and closed to the police lines and all other policemen have been replaced.

The body has been sent to Khamarail village under Kaligaj upazila in Jhenaidah district after autopsy.

Police said they suspect that the killing could be intra-party feud in Jessore Jubo League or rivalry over

securing contract.

Rezaul used to finance the Jessore Jubo League faction led by Rentu Chaklader. The other group was led by Jessore town Jubo League president Mostafa Kamal Parbat.

Mostafa Kamal was attacked and injured by supporters of Rentu Chaklader following the recent party council.

Police said PBCP cadres had threatened Rezaul not to bid for construction of the Tk 5.87 crore Hashdaha-Chuadanga road under the local government ministry. He was threatened by PBCP after the bidding. He filed a general diary with Kotwali thana, police said.

## School teacher freed after 11 days in Khagrachhari

UNB, Khagrachhari

A primary school teacher, abducted by criminals from Rangapanichhara in the Sadar upazila 11 days ago, was released on Thursday.

Police said Sharadendu Chakma, 55, a teacher of Rangapanichhara Government Primary School, was kidnapped from in front of the school on July 20 and then taken to Dighinala.

The kidnappers demanded a ransom of Tk 1.5 lakh from his family.

The kidnappers released him after one of their gang mates was arrested.

## 2 minor girls raped in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two minor girls were raped in two separate incidents in the district recently.

A four year-old girl was playing near her house at Hatbas in Tala upazila at moon. One Abu Taleb, son of Sarfuddin of the same village, dragged her to a nearby jute field and raped. Her mother rescued her later.

In the other incident on the same day at South Srepur village in Kaliganj upazila, a 11 year-old girl was raped allegedly by one Wajed Ali, son of Noor Ali, when she was collecting firewood at a bamboo cluster.

## Eviction threat

## Police deployed at Rajshahi village

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police have been deployed at Narayanpur village under Manda upazila in Naogaon district as tension mounted over miscreants' threat to evict a schoolteacher's family after a failed police raid in the village to nab their gang leader.

The miscreants claim that police raided the village to nab their gang leader Ershad following a tip-off by the schoolteacher, Sultan Ali Khondokar. Not finding Ershad during the July 24 raid, police seized his 'illegal' motorcycle.

The miscreants are now demanding Tk 30, 000 from Sultan Ali as compensation for the motorcycle, or to leave the village.

On May 31, the miscreants critically injured Sultan's son-in-law Rais Uddin, assaulted his family and damaged his house, centring a dispute over Union Parishad election.

After treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Rais did not return to the village out of fear. He is now staying in Rajshahi city with his family, sources said.

Duty officer at Manda thana Shafiqul Alam confirmed the incidents. Manda thana OC and Naogaon SP could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.



PHOTO: STAR

A wholesale pineapple market at Pulbaria in Mymensingh district. The seasonal fruit sells at between Tk 500 and Tk 800 per 100, depending on the size. But growers say they are deprived of fair price as middlemen control the market.

## Symbols allotted for Netrokona by-polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

After allotment of election symbols to candidates on Thursday, hectic campaign has begun for the bye-election in Netrokona-3 constituency.

The polls will be held on August 21. Khadija Amin of Four-Party Alliance got 'sheaf of paddy', M. Jubad Ali of Awami League 'boat', Ali Osman of Jatiya Party (Ershad) 'plough' and Abdul Ali of Jatiya Party (Manju) got 'bicycle'.

Abu Jabbar Sabar of Krishak

Shramik Janata League got 'gamcha' and Krishak Mohammad Sadak of Krishak Shramik Mukti Andolon got 'cock'.

Abdul Wahab, the lone independent candidate, will fight the polls with 'king stork' symbol.

The bye-election is being held following the death of BNP MP Nurul Amin Talukdar, husband of Khadija Amin.

In the last parliamentary election, Nurul Amin got 1,03,706 votes while AL candidate Jubad Ali got 93,742 votes.

## Tk 24 lakh gold stolen from Khulna shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

About 300 tolas of gold bars and ornaments worth over Tk 24 lakh were stolen from a Jewellery shop at the New Market in the city Tuesday night.

Next morning, police recovered four rifle bullets and a bunch of keys from the floor of the shop and took into custody five security guards of the market for questioning. They are Abdur Rashid, Michael Shikdar, Shahidur Rahman, Haider Ali and Mohammad Milon, police said.

## Rice auction Bidders muscled out by ruling party cadres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Some persons allegedly belonging to BNP and Jubo Dal prevented others from bidding in the auction by Mongla Port Authority for sale of 1100 tonnes of rice stored in its transit shed.

Wednesday noon was the deadline for dropping tenders at the office of the commissioner of Khulna division.

It is alleged that cadres of BNP and Jubo Dal kept other intending bidders confined in a house near the office. The cadres released them after their men dropped tenders.

The victims have demanded re-tendering.



PHOTO: STAR

An exchange-of-opinion meeting on prevention of repression on women and children was held at Satkhira Sadar upazila auditorium recently. It was jointly organised by Ain-o-Salish Kendra and Swadesh, a local NGO.