

SNAPS

BCL consolidates position at IU
IU CORRESPONDENT

The Islamic University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has consolidated its position here again. Chhatra League leaders and activists were driven out of the campus just after the installation of the BNP-Jamaat government. BCL formed the new IU unit committee where Karamot Ali became president and Sajjad Hossain secretary.

Contraband goods seized

BSS, Bheramara
About 1,400 bottles of Phensidyl and 2,000 kilograms of sugar were seized from Mohishakundi border under Daulatpur upazila on Wednesday. A patrol team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) stationed at Pragpur border seized the above mentioned smuggled goods from the Mohishakundi border area in an abandoned condition. Seized contrabands were deposited to Customs and VAT authorities in Kushtia.

Freshers' reception

IU CORRESPONDENT
A reception was accorded to new students while a farewell was given to the outgoing students of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology Department of Islamic University (IU) was held on the campus recently. Vice Chancellor Professor Mustafizur Rahman was the chief guest. He called upon the outgoing students to contribute something to the country through creative research on science and the new students to devote themselves to studies for building their career.

New VP of FIUS

IU CORRESPONDENT
Vice-chancellor (VC) of Islamic University (IU) Professor Mustafizur Rahman has been elected vice president (VP) of the executive body of Federation of International University Sports (FIUS) recently.

Where train mishap is a 'monthly phenomenon'

CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The 85km Lalmonirhat-Burimari railway track is virtually a death trap. At least one train mishap takes place in a month on the track as it is almost unfit for use. Eight trains derailed on the route in seven months till July this year, according to official records.

At many points, old wooden sleepers have rotten and vanished, and the track touches the ground, not to speak of boulders on it.

The track is in a sorry state for long though railway officials say Burimari railway station is one of the top ten stations in the region in terms of yearly earnings, both from wagons and passenger handling.

When contacted, Bangladesh Railway's Divisional Manager (DRM) in Lalmonirhat Abu Taher said the higher authorities have been officially told to renovate the

track. Divisional Engineer Mohammad Shahjahan however said repair work can not be done due to shortage of funds.



Train accident like this is almost a regular phenomenon on Bangladesh Railway's Lalmonirhat-Burimari route. The photo was taken recently from near Parulia station in Lalmonirhat.

Tk 140 crore PDB bills in Rajshahi region unrealised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Power Development Board (PDB) has Tk 140.49 crore unrealised electricity bills in its Rajshahi distribution region, official sources said here yesterday.

The arrears are lying with both state-owned and private organisations, including the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC).

The distribution region comprises eight districts covering greater Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra.

The defaulting organisations include RCC- Tk 19.07 crore, Rajshahi Jute Mills- Tk 2.55 crore, Kowmi Jute Mills in Sirajganj- Tk 7.88 crore, Sirajganj Spinning and Cotton Mills- Tk 2.27 crore, Northern Paper Mills at Paksey- Tk 4.55 crore, Bogra Pourasava- Tk 2.93 crore, Joypurhat Pourasava- Tk 0.91 crore and Chemical Industries at Ishwardi- Tk 42 lakh.

The PDB failed to realise the bills even after issuing repeated notices, the sources said.

The circle-wise break-up of the arrears are Tk 38.31 crore in Rajshahi, Tk 30.24 crore in Bogra and Tk 71.93 crore in Pabna.

PDB's revenue earning in the region stood at Tk 257.38 crore during 11 months till June. This is Tk 9.09 crore higher than the earning during the corresponding period in the last financial year.

PDB realised Tk 33.58 crore during June from its 2,59,950 subscribers. This was Tk 10.46 crore higher than that the collection made during the corresponding period in the previous year.

PDB authorities have filed 1950 cases in the three circles till April this year and disconnected 21,700 power supply lines including 2652 illegal connections.

The PDB has launched a drive to

realise arrears and to snap illegal connections.

It has also started a motivation campaign through distribution of leaflets and announcement over loudspeakers to realise bills.

Bandits loot Habiganj college principal's office

UNB, Habiganj

Robbers stormed into Brindaban Government College and ransacked valuable documents in the early hours of Friday.

About five bandits entered the college at about 2am and tied the hands and legs of night guard Siddik Ali.

They broke open almirahs at rooms of the principal, the vice-principal and took away documents and money.

Joint forces' drive soon in seven northern dists

1,200 'criminals' on list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A drive by joint forces will be launched soon in seven northern districts to nab hardened criminals, sources said.

"The operation will begin here soon and necessary preparations have been completed", a senior police official told The Daily Star yesterday.

A list of nearly 1200 criminals including over 500 hardened ones has been prepared, the official said

seeking anonymity.

Most of the listed criminals belong to Purbo Banglar Sarbahara Party (PBSP) and Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and other political parties, other sources said.

The districts are - Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra and Rangpur.

Army will led teams of joint forces including members of BDR, police, Ansar and Village Defense Party during the drive.

The strength of the forces has been fixed considering the population of the seven districts.

Bangladesh's border with India in the entire northern region would also be under strict surveillance so that the wanted criminals can not slip out of the country.

The decision to launch the drive was taken following rise of crimes including murders, abduction, robbery and smuggling in the northern region, the sources said.

25 chargesheeted for snatching accused from Satkhira police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Twenty-five people including a BNP leader have been chargesheeted in a case for attacking police and snatching an accused from them in Kaligonj upazila.

Police submitted the charge sheet on July 27 at a magistrate court after three and a half months' investigation.

The accused included Manurul Islam Mannu, joint convener of Kaligonj upazila BNP, Kamrul Islam Jaba, Abul Hashem, Nuruzzaman, Ruhul Amin Mithu, Mohsin, Eyasin, Noor Mahmud, Abdur Rahman, Nurul Huda and Asaduzzaman.

Police on March 14 arrested one Ruhul Amin Mithu from Kaligonj upazila headquarters on charge of murder.

When the police team led by Sub-inspector Sakawat Hossain was returning, Mithu's accomplices led by Manirul Islam attacked them near the thana and snatched the handcuffed accused.

Two policemen including SI Sakawat were injured.

SI Sakawat filed a case with Kaligonj thana, accusing 25 people.

Five hurt as AL factions clash in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

Five people were injured in a clash between two rival factions of Awami League (AL) at its workers' meeting in Tanor upazila on Friday.

The clash took place as local AL leader Faurk Chowdhury was not invited to a party conference at Kamargaon union, held recently.

The meeting, which was called to chalk out party programmes for August 15 (the day when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed), ended in a pandemonium, party sources said.

Angry party workers manhandled the upazila AL joint secretary Abdus Salam, they said.

Seed treatment plant developed at BAU

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A scientist at Mymensingh Agricultural University has developed a seed treatment machine which will control diseases of vegetable seeds.

Dr M Bahadur Meah, Professor of the Department of Plant Pathology and chief of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Laboratory, says his machine will control seed borne pathogens of vegetable seed like tomato, brinjal and chili.

The device will ensure 100 per cent seed germination and reduce indiscriminate use of hazardous fungicides for seed treatment.

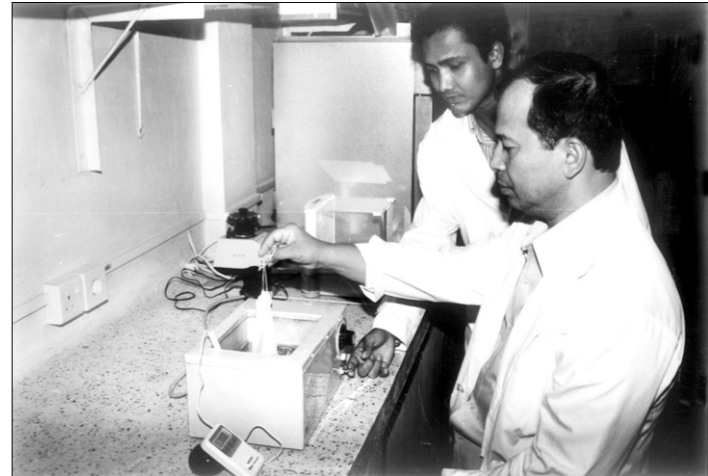
In our country, seven lakh tons of

healthy seeds are required annually but only five per cent of it is provided by government agencies.

An amount of Tk 300 million will be saved annually by controlling diseases of vegetable seeds by using treating machines, he said while demonstrating his machine at the Agriculture University yesterday.

His Ph D student Md Rafiqul Islam (teacher, BAU), Md Monirul Islam (SO, BARI) and MS student Md Tafajjal Hossain Rony, were associated in the research.

Dr Bahadur has taken an initiative to distribute the plant free of cost among trained farmers in major vegetable growing areas.



Prof Dr Bahadur Meah of the Department of Plant Pathology, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), demonstrating his newly invented vegetable seed treatment machine yesterday (Saturday) to students at the IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Laboratory, BAU, Mymensingh.

Cotton farming on 9,000 hectares in Meherpur

BSS, Meherpur

A total 9000 hectares have been brought under cotton cultivation in the district this year with a production target of 11000 tonnes of seed cotton.

Of the total, 3500 hectares are in Meherpur Sadar, 3000 in Gangni

and 2500 hectares in Mujibnagar upazila.

According to official sources, Cotton Development Board is distributing 27 tonnes of seeds, insecticides and fertiliser among farmers at fair prices and giving them training to make the programme a success.

PSA lists 'siege' Classes begin at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

Classes began at the Chittagong University (CU) yesterday after a month long vacation.

Meanwhile the CU unit of Progressive Students Alliance (PSA), an alliance of three student bodies, postponed its indefinite siege on the campus for one week.

The PSA decision followed its meeting with the CU proctorial body at the proctor office on Friday. With postponement of the siege, Students have started returning at their dormitories.

Acting Proctor Dr. Md. Al Amin presided over the meeting. Among others, Assistant Proctor Md. Jafar Ullah Talukdar, Monzurul Alam, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) Ripayan Barua, general secretary Dev Prasad Debu and general secretary of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) Mehedi Hasan Tamal were present at the meeting. PSA had enforced an indefinite 'siege' on the campus on June 26 protesting an attack on them allegedly by cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on the day before. Fifteen PSA activists were beaten in the attack.

The CU authorities had formed a four-member probe committee to investigate the matter and asked it to submit a report within a week. But the probe body did not submit its report till Friday.

Sangskritik Jote protests move to lease Singhabari in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Moulvibazar district unit of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote held a meeting in the town recently protesting the government's move to lease the historic 'Singhabari' in Sylhet town and reintroduce the Drama Control Act.

The Jote's district president MA Matin presided over the meeting, held at the Chowmuhana Square. It was addressed by, among others, Obaydur Rahman Salik, Subhas Paul Kanu, Syed Monsur Ahmed, Anwar Hussain Dulal and Prof Rajat Kanti Goswami.

The speakers urged the government to protect the Singhabari from the clutches of land grabbers. They expressed solidarity with the Sylhet Singha Bari Protection Movement led by Sylhet City Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kumrun and criticised the role of the Sylhet Deputy Commissioner in this regard.

They also criticised the information minister for his statement in parliament regarding reintroduction of the Drama Control Act.

The Act was repealed by the immediate past Awami League government following a demand by cultural activists.

Tension over damage of idol in Nilphamari

Oikya Parishad demands Domar UNO's transfer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Tension prevails in Brahman Para (Vujaripara) village in Domar upazila in the district over alleged damage of an idol of a Hindu goddess at a temple by miscreants earlier.

Leaders of the Hindu-Boudha-Christian Oikya Parishad visited the village on Friday and deplored the incident.

Addressing a gathering on the premises of Domar Nath Mondir after the visit, Balaram Thakurta, central Presidium member of the Parishad, demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits.

He demanded transfer of the Domar Thana Nirbahi Officer (UNO)

for his "controversial role".

Presided over by Porachad Adhikari, Nilphamari district president of Khatrio Samity, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Ramendra Nath Bardhan, Nilphamari district secretary of the Parishad and Monindranath Roy, its Thakurgaon district secretary.

At the gathering, the speakers placed a list of alleged incidents of torture on the local minority community since the present government took over.

They alleged that a teenaged Hindu girl, daughter of one Harolal Das of Sholmari Gopaler Bazar in Jaladhaka upazila, abducted recently by "identified culprits" was yet to be recovered due to "inaction" by police.

Non-govt teachers' 8-point demand Sit-in in front of Satkhira DC's office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Jatiya Teachers and Employees Front staged a sit-in and held a rally in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office on Thursday to press its eight-point demand.

The programme was preceded by a big procession in the town, joined by teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges, and madrasahs in the district. The processionists paraded the main streets, chanting various slogans.

Presided over by Principal Yunus Ali, the rally was addressed by, among others, Sheikh Amanullah, Prof Abu Ahmed, Principal Ruhul Amin, Principal Ashke-e-Elahi, Mainul Hasan and Ashraf Ali.

Their demands include 30 per cent dearness allowance. They said teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges and madrasahs get salaries much lower than government officials having same qualifications.



Gobinda Lal Das, a college teacher, speaking as chief guest at a recitation programme of poems of poet Dantassha Roushan, held recently at Gaibandha Zila Shilpakala Academy. Onushilan, a local cultural organisation, arranged the programme.