Body of woman recovered

UNB, Munshiganj Police recovered the floating body of an unidentified middle aged woman from Rautbhog beel in Tangibari upazila on Monday.

The body was sent to hospital

Tk 5 lakh current

nets seized

UNB, Rajbari A mobile court in a special drive seized current nets worth Tk 5 lakh from two trucks recently and arrested two

The mobile court led by first class magistrate Kamaluddin Biswas raided the area between Dhawaghat and Daulatdia ghat and seized the

Indian sugar floods B'baria markets

UNB, B'baria Markets in the town have been flooded with smuggled Indian sugar posing a threat to locally produced

Locals said that every day Indian sugar-laden trucks are coming in the town from border areas before the very nose of the law enforcing agencies.

Technical education scheme for orphans

Muslim Aid Bangladesh, a development organisation, recently inaugurated the Technical Education ogramme for Orphans-2003 in

Kushtia town, says a press release. Islamic University Vice Chancellor Dr Mostafizur Rahman was present as the chief guest. Muslim Aid country director SM Rasheduzzaman was the main speaker. Former member of parliament (MP) MA Wahid, municipality Chairman Khandaker Israil Hossain were present as special

Workshop

A CORRESPONDENT,

A three-day workshop on 'Privatisation Pilot Project at Patuakhali Ferry Crossing' began at local Roads and Highways

DANIDA and RHD jointly organised the workshop. RHD Executive Engineer Dalil Uddin chaired the workshop while Danish Embassy representatives Leif Larsen, Audy Andersen and Executive Engineer of Ferry Division were special guests.

Hold mid-term polls, AL leader Nasim demands

OUR CORRESPONDENT.

Influential Awami League leader and former minister Mohammad Nasim has demanded mid-term election, alleging government's

"The BNP-Jamaat government has failed in all areas and a midterm election is necessary.

"Otherwise, the failed government should be overthrown through a mass movement", Nasim said addressing a public Palashbari upazila Shadeed Miner in Gaibandha on Monday.

Gaibandha district Jubo League, youth front of AL, organised the meeting marking the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Nasim said, "There is no law and order in the country, no safety of people. Awami League leaders and workers are being killed every day. Terrorists and criminals are committing crimes under the

A situation of total anarchy is

going on in the country, which is affecting economic activities also. Even small traders and shopkeep ers are not safe due to "rampant extortion by hoodlums sheltered by the ruling parties", he said.

This government has established autocracy in the name of democracy, but no body dares to open his mouth fearing repression, the AL leader alleged.

established till execution of the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case.

He demanded immediate execution of the verdict.

Presided over by Gaibandha Jubo League President Rezaul Kari Reza, the meeting was addressed by, among others, AL central leader Fazley Rabbi, Lutfar Rahman MP. Mohammed Khaled and Syed Shamsul Alam

Prompt action by police

13 dacoits arrested during robbery at B'baria village

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least nine persons were injured and 13 dacoits were arrested as police went into action during a dacoity at a house at Krisanagor village in Nabinagar upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

According to police, SI Jahangir Uddin and SI Md Shahjahan were at the village with a police team to arrest an absconding accused.

Not knowing police presence, a gang of 18 dacoits led by their ringleader Gulam Hussain swooped on a house at dead of night.

At once, SI Md Shahjahan informed Officer-in-Charge of Nabinagar thana Nurul Huda on The OC along with a team

attacked the dacoits, who fired at police. Police replied with shots. After an hour-long gunbattle police arrested 13 of the dacoits and five of them managed to

The arrested dacoit are Gulam Hussain, 35; Muklesur Rahman, 28; Sahib, 30; Jakir, 35; Jamal, 30; Nikunda Karmaker, 50; Hashem, 45; Monir, 48; Shaid Mia, 45; Yusuf



ting a dacoity at Krishnanagar village in Nabinagar upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

Ali, 25; Md Kabir, 25; Tajul Islam, 26; and Helal Mia, 25.

After their arrest, the angry villagers gave four of them a mass beating, defying police.

The four and five inmates of the attacked house were admitted to Nabinagar Upazila Health Complex

After the gunbattle, police recovered one rifle, 17 bullets, two billhooks and one grill-cutter machine used by the dacoits.

at the Nabinagar thana hajat when the report was filed yesterday

Shibir occupies

49 injured in clashes in Gaibandha, Kushtia

Police fire blank shots in Kushtia, process postponed at three places

Showcause on 30 schools

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At last 49 people were injured in clashes over formation of Gram Sarkar in Gaibandha and Kushtia on

Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that 24 people were injured in clashes between rival groups in three villages.

Upazila Food Officer Rezaul Karim, who represented the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), postponed the process at Noorpur in Kamarpara union under Sadullapur Upazila when two rival groups clashed, injuring 13 people, two of

Both Shamser Ali, a retired teacher and Sharifuddin wanted to a gannya mannya bekti (distinguished person), a post in the Gram Sarkar. They exchanged words but the issue could not be resolved. Their supporters then fell upon each other with lethal weapon, local people said.

Of the inured, Sadhan Kumar, 20 and Sirajul Islam, 55, were admitted to hospital in serious conditions.

In ward No 8 in Padumshaher union under Shahghata upazlia, eight persons were injured in a clash between activists of BNP and Awami League's youth front Jubo

Local people said the clash



ensued when some Jubo League activists led by Khaja Mia pressed Upazila Agriculture Officer Shafiqul Islam to put their candidate's name on the committee. As he declined, they assaulted local BNP leader Shawpon, triggering a clash, injuring eight persons.

Another three persons were iniured in a clash at in ward Bno 3 in Mahdipur union under Palashbari

Result debacle

in Rangamati

Thirty schools in the district have

been served with show cause

notices for their poor result in the

Secondary School Certificate

Examination this year, official

Even 20 percent of students of

The schools have been asked to

these schools could not pass in the

improve their performance within a

ear, failing which their monthly pay

orders (MPOs) will be cancelled, the

passed from seven of the schools.

Sources further said no student

A total of 4,438 students

appeared at the SSC examination

from 70 schools in the district his

are: Bhedbhedi Poura High School.

The schools served with notices

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

sources said.

sources said.

HSC examination.

Upazila Agriculture Officer Mozaffer Ahmed suspended the polls at ward No 4 in Palashbari Sadar union amid clashes between two rival groups.

Our Correspondent, Kushtia reported that at least 25 people including two policemen were injured in a clash between BNP and Awami League supporters during formation of Gram Sarkar at Chandpur village in Kumarkhali upazila on Monday.

Police fired five blank shots to bring the situation under control. Formation of the Gram Sarkar was postponed

According to police, the villagers assembled at Chandpur Primary

Shapchhari High School, Shahid

Abdul Ali Academy, Maichyapara

High School in sadar upazila

Naniarchor High School, Jahanatali

High School, Bora Mohaprum High

School and Boradam High School

in Naniarchor upazila. Shuvalong

High School, Bilchhari High School

and Barunachhari High School in

Tulaban High School, Baghaichhari

High School , Khedarpara High

School, Shishokmukh High School,

Uluchhari High School and

High School ,Amtali High School in

Baghaichhari upazila, Langadu

Government High School,

Mainimukh Model High School

Karolachhari High School,

Gulshakhali High School, Kattali

High School, Harengachhari High

School in Langadu upazila,

Bonojyogichhara High School in

Zurachhari upazila of the district.

Borkal upazila, B T High School

School ground at about 5 PM to form a Gram Sarkar in the village.

They failed to reach a consensus on who would be in the committee as rival AL and BNP supporters had their choice.

After exchange of words, the groups clashed with lethal weapons for about an hour, leaving 25 people

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Two injured policemen are SI Mafidul Islam and constable Ahad.

Nine of the injured persons were

admitted to hospital. They are Saruf, Awlad, Altaf, Chuka, Mosrarraf under Rajpara thana. Aziz, Rafiq, Rahim and Selim.

Padma boat tragedy STAFF CORRESPONDENT, BDR and the local administration

15 feared drowned in

At least four persons including two children drowned and eleven others were missing when a mechanised boat drowned in Padma river near Raishahi city on Monday.

Forty-five people were rescued. The boat with at least 60 people and goods drowned in the mid-river on its way to Police Line Ghat near the city from Char Majardiar Ghat

Eyewitnesses said the overloaded boat was caught in a whirl-

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

People put up road barricades in the

city on Monday protesting with-

drawal of BRTC double-decker bus

in the divisional headquarter. Their

services were stopped on Saturday

on orders from Dhaka after govern-

ment's meeting with transport

owners and workers unions,

sources here said. The transpor

unions were demanding withdrawal

of BRTC buses from inter-district

only from inter-district routes, not

Two double-decker buses plied

service in the city.

sent emergency rescue boats and rescued 45 people and recovered four bodies The dead have been identified as

Abdul Quddus, 35, of Pabna, Liza Khatun, 3, Nur Jahan, 7 and Naim Sheikh, 4, of Char Majardiar village. Five of the rescued persons were

rushed to Rajshahi Medical College BDR rescue boats are searching for the missing persons. BDR

sources said the death toll may rise. Hundreds of people thronged the riverbank in search of their missing

BRTC double-decker buses

came on the streets on the following

day (Sunday), only to be opposed

by workers and owners of

many people said the city dwellers

were greatly benefited by the BRTC

affect the people. As per the settle-

private bus owners. BRTC double-

decker service is to be withdrawn

from inter-district routes, not from

about Tk 350. They are compelled to

sell their produce at throwaway

Extension (DAE) sources said jute

on 85,200 hectares of land was

cultivated in eight districts of greater

Rangpur and Dinajpur zones this

year with a production target of

Of the total, 15,700 hectares

were cultivated in Rangpur, 10,200

hectares in Gaibandha, 18,700

hectares in Kurigram, 7,900 hect-

ares in Lalmonirhat, 13,300 hect-

ares in Nilphamari, 7,500 hectares

in Dinajpur, 5,400 hectares in

Thakurgaon and 6,500 hectares in

852,000 bales of jute.

Panchagarh districts.

The Department of Agriculture

prices for maintaining their families.

city routes, they said.

Talking to this correspondent

The government decision will

autotempos.

deployed in front of the hall when the Withdrawal of BRTC service protested said.

tion was completed few months back. No senior official of RU was

available for comment. But Assistant Proctor Prof Belal

Uddin who was standing in front of the hall at that time later said he will try to empty the hall

Move to close jute

Thursday

All the political parties have extended their support to the committee's demand for keeping the mill

protest meetings in the town, formed a human and handed over memorandums to the local adminis-

5000 workers and employees.

Sources said the government has taken a move to close down the

dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia A housewife was strangled alleg-

edly by her husband at upazila Monday night for dowry. Police arrested the husband

often beat his wife Bedena Khatun, 18, as her father failed to give Tk 10,000 as dowry.

They had an altercation on Monday night and at one sage he

strangled her, police said quoting neiahbours. Police recovered the dead body

6 outlaws nabbed from Tangail

Police arrested six activists of an outlawed party from different areas of the town on Sunday night Police said arrested Abdul Latif, Akter Hossain, Sumon Siddique, Habul Sikder, Shahid Siddiqui and

Monir Hossain were active members of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (ML).

A contingent of police led by Additional Police Super (ASP) Nisharul Arif raided different hideouts in the town and arrested them They were sent to jail hajat.

Faridpur town faces erosion threat

40,000 families made homeless in five days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridput

With the rise in water level once again, erosion by the Padma river has taken a serious turn rendering 1500 families homeless in Decreer Char Union under the Sadar upazila in the last five days since Thursday. Three-fourths of the union has

already gone into the river. If erosion continues unabated. the famous Pal Bari will be

devoured, seriously threatening Faridpur town, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf told newsmen at the circuit house on

He visited the erosion-affected areas earlier on the day.

Faridour town will be devoured by the Padma if approach of the river can not be stopped right now. he said "This is no doubt a mammoth task involving a huge amount of

money". He said over 40,000 families of Sadar, Char Bhadrasan and Sadarpur upazilas were rendered homeless by erosion by the Padma. About 350 of the affected families

from Decreer Char union have taken shelter on the abandoned railway track road near the town. Official sources said each of the families were allotted 16 kgs of rice and Tk 300 so far. But many of the

families alleged that they did not get

Erosion victims in Decreer Char union in Faridpur Sadar living under the open sky in a nearby area

Filmmakers assaulted at Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Unidentified tribal youths assaulted a team of documentary film makers and snatched their video camera at Debasysh Nagar in the district town Sunday night. They came here from Dhaka,

said Sub Inspector Rehana Akhter. Police arrested one Shagotam Chakma following filing of a case filed by Md Quamruzzaman, leader of the team and Executive Director of Unique Marketing Bangladesh

They came here for a documentary film titled 'Deshe Deshe'. They selected a tribal girl named

Moushumi Chakma for the shooting. This angered the youths, police

Man crushed by bus in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT. B'baria

One person was crushed under the wheels of a passenger bus while he was crossing the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Shatbarga village under Sadar upazila on Monday.

According to police sources, Masud Mia, 25, of Kaliutta village under Nasirnagar upazila was waiting for a bus at Amtali bus stand. While he was crossing the highway, a Sylhet-bound bus coming from Dhaka knocked him down resulting his instanteous death.

Police seized the bus from Theliapar. But driver and helper of the bus managed to escape. Autopsy of the body was done

at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital on Monday. A case was filed with

Brahmanbaria police station.

14 yrs RI for possessing illegal arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

Judge Abdul Quddus Mia of Barisal Speedy Trial Tribunal awarded 14 years RI to Milon Mridha under Section 19(a) of Arms Act on Monday for possessing illegal firearms.

Milon was arrested in Galchipa in Patuakhali district after police, acting on his confession, recovered a pipe gun with two bullets from a banana garden near his house on August 18, 2001.

Milon was caught and handed over to police by people led by local Union Parishad members Md Yusuf and Shah

On Sunday, people laid a siege to the BRTC depot demanding According to BRTC sources, it reintroduction of BRTC doublehad earned Tk 2.40 lakh profit per decker service in the city, saying the month by leasing the two doublegovernment withdrew BRTC buses decker buses for Tk 3400 a day.

Closure of jute purchase

centres a boon to brokers

People barricade

Barisal city road

Following the closure of government purchase centres in the region price of jute has come down in different hats and bazaars due to shortage of buyers.

Taking advantage of the situation brokers are offering low price which is below the production cost.

Jute growers said they were facing difficulties in selling their produce as six government purchasing centres in the region were closed down. With closure of the centers hundreds of labourers became jobless, they added.

Growers told UNB that brokers offered Tk 200-250 per maund of jute against the production cost of

BAU teacher dead 3 killers get

UNB, C'nawabganj

A court here on Saturday convicted three persons and sentenced them to life term imprisonment for murdering a housewife.

The convicts are Abdus Sattar, Safigul and Rafigul. Rafigul was tried in absentia in the District and Sessions Judge court. Rawshan Ara, wife of Rafique Uddin was slaughtered by the accused at Nasirabad village in Nachol upazila on June 19, 1998.

Training for UP members

An orientation training for Union Parishad chairmen and members was of held at the office of Mukt Nari-O-Shishu Unnayan Sangshtha, as local nongovernment organisation (NGO) on Monday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Noted educa-

Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) died of massive heart attack on Saturday night at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) at the age of 59, said a press release.

wishers to mourn his death. His namaj-e-janaja was held in

building. He was buried at the university graveyard. Qulkhwani of late Dr Gafur Mandal will be held after Jumma

Department of Computer Science and Mathematics,

He left behind his wife, two sons. three daughters, relatives and well-

prayer on Friday (August 29) at BAU Baitul Aman mosque.

ematician Professor Dr Abdul Gafur Mandal of the

front of the university administrative



The arrested dacoits were kept

RU hall in a unique wav

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Nearly one hundred activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) occupied the newly built Bangabandhu . Hall at Rajshahi University on Monday in a unique way.

Sources said the ICS activists, most of them residents of Motihar Hall, killed a snake and brought out a procession with the snake chantng slogans: we will not stay at Motihar Hall to be bitten by snakes.

led by Shahin. ICS social affairs secretary at Motihar Hall, entered Bangabandhu Hall by breaking its collapsible gate. A contingent of police was

At one stage, the precisionists

incident took place, the sources The Bangabandhu Hall was awaiting inauguration. Its construc-

Half-day hartal at Sirajgani

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Siraigani

The Raipur Quami Jute Mill Rakkha Songram Committee (committee to protect jute mill) will enforce a halfday hartal in Sirajganj town on Thursday protesting the government's alleged move to close down

The proposed hartal is part of a programme announced by the committee earlier.

running. The committee also held several

tration protesting the move. Set up in 1962, the mill has about

mill due to recurring losses Wife killed for

Pallisadarpur village in Mirpur Police said, Polan, a taxi driver,

yesterday morning and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for

UNB, Tangail