

SNAPS

Seminar on 'Literature online' at Premier University today

CU CORRESPONDENT
A seminar on "Literature online" will be held at the Premier University in the port city today.
The Department of English will arrange the seminar.
Prof Dr Mohit Ul Alam, chairman of the department, will present the keynote paper at the seminar.
Noted scientist and Director of Chittagong University Physical Science Research Institute Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, Vice-chancellor of Premier University Prof Anwarul Azim Anif, Prof Sayed Manzurul Islam of Dhaka University and Prof Mahmudul Haque will be present at the seminar as discussants.

Meritorious students honoured

CU CORRESPONDENT
Students who got Bangladesh Teachers Association (BTA) scholarship in 2002 academic year was given prizes at a ceremony held at the Kazem Ali High School in the port city on Thursday.
Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman was present at the function as chief guest. Obaidul Akber, Controller of Examinations, Chittagong Board and BTA leaders were also present, among others.
The minister distributed crests and certificates among the meritorious students.

SSC examinee commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari
An unsuccessful female SSC (Secondary School Certificate) examinee who took poison on Monday, died in Nilphamari Sadar Hospital on Thursday.
Monjuara, 16, daughter of Kasimuddin of Ramkala village under Sadar upazila appeared in the SSC examination this year but failed. At this her parents most often rebuked her. Being frustrated she took poison. In a serious condition she was shifted to Nilphamari hospital where she died after three days of frantic efforts by physicians to save her.

AL member killed in bomb attack in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An Awami League leader was killed in a bomb attack in Khulna on Thursday.
Mir Abdus Salam, 30, a member of Jhenaidah Ward Awami League (AL) of Amirpur union under Batiaghata upazila was killed at 8 pm in the bomb attack while he was returning home from Joypur bazaar by a van.
The alleged killers were suspected to belong to outlawed NBCP. They abducted Secretary of the ward AL Musa Hossain, 40, who was accompanying slain Mir Salam at the same time.
According to police, Salam's head was blown up by the blast, while his companion Musa was not injured. The incident occurred when the van carrying the two AL leaders reached near the house of Professor Kalyan Pal of Batiaghata college, police quoting eye witnesses said.
Abducted Musa is yet to be traced. AL leader Babu Panchanon Biswas MP, strongly condemned the murder.

5 fugitives nabbed in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police arrested five fugitive convicts from different parts of the district in two days.
On Tuesday three life term convicted persons were arrested by Kishoreganj thana police. Khabiruddin, 55, Belal Hossen, 39, and Harun, 42, were convicts in Tomjuddin murder case. They killed Tomij and concealed the body in 1997.
A court in a verdict sentenced them to life term imprisonment in June 2000. Since then they were absconding. Acting on a secret information, police arrested them from Burir Hat village under Chandkhana union.
On Wednesday night Dimla police arrested two absconding convicts from Khalisha Chapani union.
Bipul Chandra Roy alias Haridas and Habibur Rahman were accused in a forgery case. In a High Court verdict in 1977, they were sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Tk 4,000 each.
Police of Nilphamari, Domar, Dimla, Kishoreganj and Saidpur thanas arrested 12 more in two days. Among them, eight were warrantees while four arrested on suspect.

Thousands marooned in Khulna as dam develops breaches

4 washed away by Atrai river, 2 bodies recovered, schools closed

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Thousands of people are marooned in Batiaghata upazila in Khulna following breaches in the Dakop Khulna WAPDA embankment on Tuesday.
Crops on 18,000 acres of land, seedbeds, shrimp enclosures and fish farms have gone under water in Batiaghata Sadar, Gangarampur and Shurkhali unions.
All educational institutions have been closed as those have gone under four to five feet water.
The floodwater has also inundated the upazila headquarter, snapping its road links with other areas and between Dakop and

Khulna.
Breaches in the one kilometre WAPDA embankment were caused due to erosion by Kazibacha and Sholmari rivers following pressure of water from the upstream.
More than 100 livestock are reported washed away.
The marooned people are suffering from lack of food and drinking water, it is reported.
It is alleged that WAPDA did not take any effective measure to protect the embankment. WAPDA authorities said there was a Tk seven crore scheme to protect the embankment but it could not be implemented due to fund shortage. Sixty metric tonnes of rice were allocated earlier for the

purpose under food-for-work programme, said Babu Panchanon Biswas, MP from Dakop Batiaghata constituency.
Hundreds of men and women are working to mend the breaches.
Babu Panchanon Biswas, leaders of all political parties, high officials of the district administration, UNO Ashraful Islam and some NGOs have joined the people.
The local people have demanded intervention by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to save Batiadhanga.
Meanwhile, erosion by Atrai river in Terokhada upazila continued.
Bodies of two out of six persons washed away by Atrai river waters on Monday a breach in its embankment

were recovered on Wednesday. The bodies have been identified as those Renuka Bagchi and Mantu.
At least 100 houses were washed away and 25 shrimp enclosures inundated by waters gushing through the breach at Patgati village. Over 300 people have become homeless.
The homeless people have taken shelter at Patgati Primary School where relief goods did not reach till Thursday night.
M Nurul Islam MP, Deputy Commissioner Restadul Islam and the UNO of Terokhada visited the affected areas on Thursday.

Field workers of NGO fleeing homes SUKS collects Tk 40 cr from 1.5 lakh members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police could not arrest any more official of the Rajshahi based NGO Samaj Uन्नayan Karma Shangstha (SUKS) while its allegedly cheated members are agitating for refund of their deposits.
The members are agitating since August 30 when some 100 cheques worth Tk two lakh issued by the NGO in their favour were dishonoured by banks.
Police arrested SUKS Director (accounts) Naimuddin on September 1.
SUKS Chairman SAQM Harun attended office on Tuesday under police protection while its other officials are moving freely in the city, some of its members alleged while

talking to this correspondent yesterday.
They alleged that the NGO reached an "under hand deal" with police.
When contacted, duty officer at Boalia police station Taslima Khatun claimed that no more official was arrested as the NGO "reached an understanding" with its members and promised refund of their deposits within 15 days.
Since its inception in 1993, SUKS so far collected nearly Tk 40 crore deposits from 1.5 lakh members through 70 branches in northern districts by offering attractive benefits.
Abdul Mannan, a field worker in Shibganj upazila, collected deposits from 40 members since he joined the NGO two years ago.
Now he has to repay Tk 70,000

deposits.
Meanwhile, many of the field workers of the NGO are now hiding, failing to refund members' deposits.
Nazrul Islam, a field worker in Motihar thana area told newsmen earlier that he refunded some deposits by selling his domestic animals.
Latif Ali of Kharkhari area also sold his house in Rajshahi city to save himself from the NGO members' wrath.
Rehana and Heera Parvin of Chapainawabganj have fled homes to save themselves as they have nothing to sell to refund deposits.
Abdul Mannan, a field worker in Shibganj upazila, collected deposits from 40 members since he joined the NGO two years ago.
Now he has to repay Tk 70,000

as the NGO failed to refund the members' deposits, he told this correspondent.
Masud Rana of Taherpur in Puthia upazila said he deposited Tk 450 every month after he became a member of the NGO in June 2000.
The NGO authorities gave him a cheque but it was dishonoured.
On March 29, Bagha upazila branch manager of the NGO, Alamgir Hossain, filed a case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Rajshahi charging the NGO authorities for misappropriating Tk 13.65 lakh.
SUKS Chairman SAQM Harun, Managing Director Nazrul Islam and Director (accounts) Naimuddin have been accused in the case.
Boalia thana police said they are investigating the case.



A partial view of desolate Angorpot-Dahogram hospital. About 15,000 people of the enclave under Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat district are deprived of healthcare facilities for lack of medical personnel.

A hospital only in name!

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

About 15,000 people of Angorpot-Dahogram enclave under Patgram upazila are being deprived of healthcare service.
A big hospital is situated here at about 20 kilometres off Patgram upazila headquarters with only one doctor. But the doctor does not stay at the hospital as he lives at Patgram. He comes at the hospital only for a day every month. As a

result patients do not get treatment facility from the hospital. The doctor has been evading his duty for the last two years, it is alleged.
Moreover, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) closes the gate of Teen Bigha corridor after 6 pm every day.
Official sources said the hospital was established about 10 years ago. A Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) was given the charge of running the hospital on

contract basis, but the NGO vanished two years ago. From then on the crisis started.
Official sources informed that most of the inhabitants here live below the poverty line.
However, the civil surgeon (CS) office sources disclosed that the hospital is yet to be enlisted under ADP. So the government is unable to take proper step to run the hospital.
An elderly woman was killed and two persons were injured when a herd of wild elephants swooped on Rasulpur village in Longdu upazila Tuesday night, police said.
At least 10 houses were also damaged.
The dead has been identified as Monwara Begum, 60. She was trampled by an elephant.
Injured Muminullah, 22 and Abdullah 5, were admitted to hospital, police added.

Teenage girl commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

A thirteen-year-old girl ended her life allegedly after being rebuked by her parents for her relations with a teenage boy.
Police and family sources said Ratna, 13, daughter of Fakrul Howlader of Kasba village in Gourmadi upazila, took poison on Tuesday.
She was rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where she died at night.
The body was handed over to her relatives after autopsy.

One killed by wild elephants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati,

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Smuggled cows snatched by Jamaat leader's men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Twenty-eight smuggled Indian cows seized by BDR have been snatched by a group of people led by a Jamaat-e-Islami leader.
The cows were seized at Satani in Sadar upazila by BDR personnel led by Habildar Mozammel Haque on Tuesday.
Immediately after the seizure, local Jamaat leader and Kuskhali Union Parishad Chairman asked Habildar Mozammel to release the cows but he declined.

The Jamaat leader then contacted Lt. Col. Mahub, Commander 12 Rifles Battalion, for release of the cows. But he also declined, Habildar Mozammel told this correspondent.
The Jamaat leader then ordered villagers to snatch the cows from BDR and they carried out the order, he said.
When contacted over phone, Lt. Col. Mahub said action will be taken against the persons involved in the incident after investigation.

60 year-old man gets life for raping girl

2 sentenced for violating housewife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

A 60-year-old man has been sentenced to life term imprisonment for raping a 13-year-old schoolgirl.
Abdul Qudus Mia, Judge of Barisal Speedy Trial Tribunal, handed down the punishment to shopkeeper Wazed Munshi.
The girl had gone to his shop at the Muktijudha Bazar in Barguna town to purchase chocolate on her way to school on July 29 last year.
The shopkeeper took her to a room in the backside of the shop and raped her.
Police arrested Wazed after her mother Sajeda Begum lodged a rape case with Barguna Kotwali thana next day.
In another verdict the judge awarded life term to two persons and fined them Tk one lakh each for raping a rickshawpuller's wife in Patharghata in Barguna district last year.
The convicts are Abbas and Kabir.
The judge declared the verdict on Thursday after examining 10 witnesses in 16 working days.
In the judgment, the judge said capital punishment was avoided considering the age of the accused.
The court ordered the Deputy Commissioner of Barguna to confiscate and sell properties of the accused to realise the fine and to

deposit the money with the state treasury.
The two raped the housewife on April 2 last year when her husband was not at home.
They were arrested after her husband lodged a case with Patharghata thana under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.
SI Shahidul Islam filed charge sheet against them on July 18 last year.
The case was transferred to the Barisal Speedy Trial Tribunal on July 6 this year.

Youth murdered 'for Tk 300'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A youth was murdered allegedly for Tk 300 he failed to repay.
Belal Ali, 25, of Mukhtarpur village in Charghat upazila owed Tk 300 to one Sharif of the same village.
On Tuesday, a quarrel ensued between them and at one stage, Sharif's men stabbed Belal. He succumbed to his injuries at Charghat Health Complex.
Insar Ali, brother of the victim, filed a murder case with Charghat police accusing ten people.
Police could not arrest any one till filing the report on Thursday.

Because he did not care a friend of BNP bigwig

Traffic sergeant allegedly 'closed' for seizing unregistered motorbike in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A traffic sergeant was 'closed' for two hours for seizing an unregistered motorcycle driven by a friend of a BNP leader without licence.
The motorcycle was released within three hours following a telephone call from a BNP bigwig in the city, sources said.
The traffic sergeant with "good 21 years' service record", spent a sleepless night at the police lines as he was also verbally threatened with suspension, the sources said.
The sergeant served in the UN missions abroad twice and won the United Nations Medal in 1996 and 2002.
Ordered by his superiors, Traffic Sergeant Shaheen Iqbal of Boalia police station in the city went to

Gourhanga crossing at around 5pm on Wednesday to check vehicles.
Iqbal caught one Shahidul Islam for driving a motor cycle without any driving license, registration and number-plate.
Islam made a mobile phone call. His friend Shafiqur Rahman, a BNP leader in the city's Kajla area, came immediately.
Rahman charged Iqbal why he stopped Shahidul's motorcycle.
As Iqbal declined to talk to him, Rahman called a BNP bigwig over cell phone and left the place threatening him of 'dire consequences'.
Iqbal acted as per law. He officially submitted the motorcycle to Boalia police station.
About three hours later, Islam and Rahman came to the police station and took away the motorcycle.

In the meantime, Iqbal was verbally ordered to be 'closed'.
Iqbal joined the police lines Thursday morning following a "command certificate" signed by Traffic Inspector Gazi Zahedur Rahman.
Two hours later, he was however ordered to join Boalia police station.
When contacted, an official at Boalia police station said that the motorcycle was released after its owner gave an undertaking to show proper documents within three days.
Talking to The Daily Star, Additional Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Anisur Rahman denied that Iqbal was 'closed'.
Asked about release of the motorcycle, RMP Deputy Commissioner Mazharul Islam said he was not aware of the incident.



PHOTO: ISPR
Bangladesh Navy personnel in cooperation with customs officials recovered smuggled electronic goods and automobile accessories worth over Tk 37 lakh from an ocean-going vessel at the outer anchorage of Chittagong harbour on Thursday.

Court orders return of seized items of 6 Barisal AL leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Sadar Upazila Magistrate Golam Rahman Sadar on Wednesday ordered police to return the confiscated items of six Awami League leaders and workers as they appeared before court.
They are Barisal city AL convener Showkat Hossain Hiron, district AL office secretary Talukder Md Yunus, Awami Ainjibi Parishad President Laskar Nurul Huq, advocate Anisuddin Shahid, Mossaraf Ali Khan Badsha and Chhatra League leader Tuhin.
They told prayed for returning the confiscated items, saying they were not absconding as they obtained interim bail from the High Court on

August 22, which was confirmed by the lower court.
So they have the right to get back their properties seized by police.
They are among the 32 Barisal AL leaders sued for alleged vandalism in the city on August 14 on the eve of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's death anniversary celebrations at Tungipara.
Ismail Hossain, general secretary of pro-BNP Tempo Sramik Union filed the case with Kotwali police under the non-bailable Speedy Trial Act.
As they went into hiding to avoid arrest, the same magistrate on August 22 had ordered confiscation of movable properties the 32 AL leaders and workers.

BSF returns 21 abducted fishermen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Twenty-one Bangladeshi fishermen, abducted by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) from Bangladesh territorial waters in the Bay of Bengal eight months back, have been handed over to BDR.
All the fishermen are from Bara Pathorghata village in Pathorghata upazila in Barguna district, BDR sources said.
BSF personnel entered into Bangladesh territorial waters and forcibly took the fishermen along with two trawlers and fishing nets in December last year.
They were detained in Alipur jail.
They were handed over to BDR at a flag meeting near Kalindi river along the border on Tuesday.

'ADR a milestone in the judiciary'

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Alternative Dispute Regulation (ADR) has been implemented for early disposal of cases of justice seeking people, said Justice AFM Ali Asgar of Bangladesh Supreme Court on Wednesday.
It is a milestone in our judiciary system, he said.
Asgar was addressing a seminar on ADR organised by Noakhali District Bar Association at the bar association auditorium.
Noakhali District Judge Abdul Gafur attended as special guest and submitted his key-note paper while the association president Advocate ABM Zakaria presided over the seminar.
Justice Asgar asked the lawyers to ensure the system in practice.
Among others, Mojibul Kamal, judge, Woman and Child Oppression Control Special Tribunal, Abdul Hamid, judge, Corruption Control Special Tribunal, Advocate Abul Kalam Chowdhury, Advocate Joinal Abedin, Advocate Moinuddin Ahmed Khuru, Advocate Habibur Rasul Mamun, Advocate Tazul Islam, Advocate Saiful Islam and Advocate Azizul Haque spoke.
Most of the bar members attended the seminar. Advocate Rafiqul Islam, Secretary, Noakhali District Bar Association coordinated the seminar.

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Two to die for Palash murder in Manikganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court here on Thursday sentenced two of the five accused to death in sensational Palash Abduction and Murder Case.
The convicts are Shubhash Rajbangshi and Bimal Rajbangshi of Katgram village in Sadar upazila of Manikganj. Bimal is now absconding. One accused Gouranga Rajbangshi died before the verdict while another accused were acquitted of the charges brought against them because of lack of proof.
Md Momin Ullah, District and Sessions Judge, Manikganj declared the verdict.
The judgement was delivered six years, three months and twenty nine days after abduction and killing of Palash.

The judgement said the prosecution had no eye witness but was able to prove charges on the basis of circumstantial evidence, confessional statement of the accused and statements of the 26 prosecution witness (PWs) in the case.
On May 5 in 1997, Shubhash Rajbangshi and Bimal Rajbangshi took Palash to Daulatdia sex workers village from Kaligram High School on the plea of showing him a cinema shooting. They kept Palash confined and killed. But they demanded Tk 1,50,000 from his father through a letter, though they already killed Palash by the time.
The victim's father filed an abduction case against the accused on July 31, 1997 with Manikganj Sadar Police Station.



PHOTO: STAR
Justice AFM Ali Asgar addressing a seminar on ADR organised by the district bar association at its auditorium in Noakhali on Thursday.

Life term for selling wife to traffickers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

One person was sentenced to life term imprisonment for selling his wife to traffickers.
The Special Tribunal Judge of Speedy Trial court in Sylhet, Shah-e-Alam Chowdhury handed down the punishment to Miraj Miah alias Miju of Noagaon village under Jagannathpur upazila in Sunamganj district on Wednesday.
The judge also fined him Tk 20,000, in default to suffer two years' RI more.
The court also ordered for realisation of the fine and to pay it to the victim's mother.
Miraj had pressed his wife Parvin Akhtar for bringing dowry, but she declined.
Miraj then sold her to traffickers in the name of sending her abroad on employment.
Parvin's father Sultanuddin of Kalma village of Tarail upazila under Kishoreganj district filed a case with Jagannathpur police accusing nine persons including Miraj.
Jagannathpur police after investigation submitted charge sheet against seven persons.
The case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet from Sunamganj District and Sessions Judge's court.
The court after examining witnesses convicted Miraj and acquitted the six others.