

SNAPS

Three 'outlaws' arrested

UNB, Khulna
Three persons, said to be members of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), were arrested along with firearms from an ice factory at Rahimnagar in Rupsa upazila on Wednesday.

Police arrested them while they were suspiciously moving in the area.

Acting on their confessional statements, police recovered three rifles, three shutter guns, one pistol and two guns.

Teen burnt alive during wedding ceremony

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari
A teenage girl was burnt alive in a fire during a wedding ceremony at Darul Huda village, 10 kms from the district town, on Wednesday.

The fire originated from an oven. The victim - Moshfeka Begum - came to her maternal uncle's house in the village to attend the wedding ceremony, sources said.

Houses and all belongings of four families were gutted because fire brigades could not reach the village as Burikhora river isolated it from the road.



PHOTO: STAR

Freak of nature: A housewife in Nilphamari Municipality has given birth to a baby sans skull and with a partial brain. Physicians at BRAC Hospital in the town where the strange baby was born have attributed abnormal phenomenon to iodine deficiency. The baby was born on Monday and survived for four days only.

Former AL MP Latif Mirza granted bail in arms case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Former Awami League lawmaker Abdul Latif Mirza was granted bail by Rajshahi Speedy Trial Tribunal in an arms case on Thursday.

Mirza was arrested from his house in Shirajganj on December 16 last year by army led joint forces during the Operation Clean Heart. Four days later, police recovered an out-of-order pistol along with four bullets.

Shirajganj police filed a case under Section 19 (a) of the Arms Act. On August 31, the case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Rajshahi following a home ministry order.

AFM Aminul Islam, judge of the tribunal granted the bail. Nearly 50 lawyers led by Advocate Saiful Islam Shelly pleaded for the bail.

1,200 'trained' Hizbut Towhid members 'active' in 4 S dists

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

At least 1200 "trained" members of Hizbut Towhid, an Islamic militant organisation, are active in Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga and Jhenidah districts.

Most of them are madrassah students and Imams of mosques, Kushtia Police Superintendent Abdus Salam told this correspondent yesterday.

The SP said police vigilance has been increased in Kushtia to locate them and watch their movement. Their leader is from Tangail, he said.

Police said the 13 alleged Hizbut Towhid members arrested during Tuesday's clashes at Poradaha railway station are being inter-

gated. Police only said they have gathered some evidence on "their Jihad (holy war)" but declined to elaborate in the interest of the investigation.

At least 43 people were arrested during the clash between alleged Hizbut Towhid members and madrassah students at the station. Police also recovered some leaflets distributed by the militants, which called for Jihad.

The 13 will be produced before court today. Police said they will seek their remand for interrogation.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of some Islamic parties including Islami Shasantantra Andolon, Islami Ain Bastabaia Committee, Khilafat

Majlish brought out a procession and landed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on Thursday demanding action against Hizbut Towhid, terming it a "terrorist organisation".

According to other sources, Hizbut Towhid has "well-equipped centres" in Kushtia, Jhenidah, Meherpur and some other southern districts.

Thirty-four Hizbut men were arrested in Kaliganj in Jhenidah in July.

Police claimed that its Kushtia district leaders Mahbubur Rahman and Nahid Islam have "close links" with a component party of the ruling four-party alliance. Arrested last month in a theft case, both are now on bail.

Diarrhoea claims 15 in Nilphamari, Rangpur

Scarcity of saline, Nilphamari Civil Surgeon says

STAR NEWS DESK

Diarrhoea has turned serious in Nilphamari and Rangpur districts, claiming at least 15 people in the last five days.

Over 750 people have been attacked with the disease, 550 of them in Nilphamari and 200 in Rangpur, according to official estimate.

Unofficial estimate puts the figure at 1,500 in Nilphamari.

Our Nilphamari Correspondent reported that with death of five more people in 48 hours, the toll shot up to 10 in the district on Thursday.

However, the District Health Department admitted three deaths. The dead in the last two days have been identified as Abul Hossain Chowdhury, 60, and Mamud Ali, 9, both of Dohelpara; Shamiron Bewa, 66, of North Jhunagach; Zillur Rahman, 50, of Purner Jhar; and Masud, 7, of Khalisha Chapani village.

The shoal areas of the Teesta in Dimla upazila are the worst-affected areas. Eighteen more patients were admitted to Dimla Health Complex on Thursday. Hundreds have been given treatment in the health complex. A new diarrhoea ward has been set up in Dimla Upazila Health Complex and a temporary diarrhoea treatment centre has been opened

in East Chhatnai union to combat the disease. A number of mobile teams are also working in the affected areas. A large number of patients are at their homes, sources said.

Nilphamari District Civil Surgeon Dr Nazrul Islam on Wednesday visited the diarrhoea-affected areas of Dimla upazila.

He told The Daily Star that his office distributed 180 bags of cholera IV saline on Wednesday. He admitted that acute scarcity of cholera IV saline had been prevailing and informed this correspondent that a messenger had been sent to Dhaka to bring IV saline on emergency basis. Consumption of adulterated food is the reason for outbreak of the disease.

However, the situation is under control, he said.

Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Domar and Dimla constituencies, Hamida Banu Shova, on Wednesday visited the diarrhoea affected areas of Dimla upazila and distributed saline among the patients. She termed the government measures to be insufficient and demanded adequate assistance on an emergency basis from the government.

Our Rangpur Correspondent reported that diarrhoea claimed three lives from September 7 to 9 and attacked 200 others in the densely-populated Haragachh Pouroshabha (municipality) area

under Kaunia upazila. The dead were identified as seven-month-old Sharifa, Limon, 10, and Ajufa, 25.

Acute shortages of saline and drugs are persisting in the affected area.

Health Department's field workers seldom visited the affected areas, alleged Abu Bakar, a leading social worker in the area. The health centre in the Haragachh Pouroshabha area runs short of medicine. As a result, family members of poor patients are being compelled to buy costly medicine from the local markets.

The worst affected areas are Poddar Para, Telitari, Menhaj Bazaar and Doanipara.

At least 100 diarrhoea patients have been treated at Haragachh Health Centre. Of them, 25 have been shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH), a hospital source told this correspondent.

The disease broke out for the second time in the Haragachh municipality. It first broke out in the first week of August, claiming two lives.

However, an official at Rangpur Civil Surgeon's office claimed that adequate steps have been taken to combat the disease.

According to an earlier report, one person died and 50 others had been affected by the disease in the flood-affected Gangachhara upazila in three days.



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes of Media dot com, a socio-cultural organisation, performing at a function held recently at Rangpur Town Hall in the district town.

Shahjalal varsity crisis deepens

Students form human chain for classes, teachers on strike for more staff

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

Students formed a human chain on the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) campus on Friday to press immediate start of first year Honours classes.

But it is still uncertain, affecting 900 students, as the teachers are on strike demanding recruitment of more teachers. The first year students have already lost one year.

The SUST has already a session jam of 26 months.

Sources on the campus said the crisis will deepen as students are preparing for a greater movement. They have other demands including construction of more dormitories and a cafeteria and publication of semester examination results.

Earlier, first year Honours classes were scheduled to begin on August 31. The SUST Academic Council held three meetings in the last two weeks to start classes, but the teachers declined to take classes till

appointment of new teachers. Different student bodies have meanwhile given memorandums to the authorities to begin classes by resolving the teacher shortage.

The students have formed a 31-member body to build a movement to press their demands.

The teacher crisis deepened as the authorities recently granted study leave to 28 more teachers. Four teachers quit their jobs earlier.

Acting Vice Chancellor Mosleh Uddin Ahmed told the Academic Council meetings that appointment of 38 teachers and 67 staff has been approved but recruitment could not be made due to a two-month embargo by the University Grants Commission (UGC). But the teachers were unmoved and continued to stay away from classes.

Prof M Shafiqur Rahman of Dhaka University was appointed VC and Prof Mosleh uddin Ahmed Pro-VC on February 13, 2001.

Prof Shafique did not appoint any

teacher. Within months, he went on leave on health ground as the teachers association pressed for appointment of more teachers and put forward other demands including promotion of some teachers.

Since then the Pro-VC Prof Mosleh Uddin Ahmed is running the administration as acting VC.

Sources said, out of 304 teachers in the university, only 160 were now working. Besides, 28 more will go on study leave before start of new semesters.

A total of 149 teachers are on leave for long, 43 of them on unauthorised leave.

The university has only seven professors against 17 posts. Among the seven professors, two are on lien now.

Against 30 posts of associate professors, the university has now only 13, three of them on leave.

The Teachers Association has demanded appointment of 110 teachers.

Faulty operation Owner of Nazma Clinic held in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police on Wednesday raided 'unregistered' Nazma Clinic in the city and arrested its owner Reaz Uddin on charge of cheating.

Two allegedly faulty operations were done at the clinic recently, causing death to one.

Another is now fighting for life at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Police said Reaz Uddin is a quack but was doing business identifying himself as a specialist doctor.

SI Ziaur Rahman of Rajpara police station filed a case with Boalia thana and accused Reaz under Sections 406, 420 and 419 of the Bangladesh Penal Code.

In the case it has been alleged that Reaz cheated many people in his unregistered clinic.

Shahida, wife of a rickshawpuller, operated upon at the clinic last month, died after remaining unconscious for over two weeks.

An official probe report later revealed that Shahida was operated upon by a non-specialist surgeon without any test.

Three year-old Polash, also son of a rickshawpuller, is now fighting for life at RMCH with a porous urinary bladder after a faulty operation.

Hunger strike for arrest of killers in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The district and city units of Jubo League, Chhatra League and Shechcha Sebok League -- all front organisations of Awami League -- jointly observed a token hunger strike at Shahid Hadis Park on Wednesday demanding immediate arrest of the killers of AL leaders Manjurul Imam, Bijon Bihari Mondol, Kamrul Islam Kutu and rickshaw-puller Shahid.

Later, a rally was held there. Presided over by Mosharrif Hossain, convenor of city unit of Shechcha Sebok League, the rally was addressed by former state minister Talukdar Abdul Khaleque, former MP Begum Mannujun Sufian, district AL president Sheikh Harun-ur-Rashid and city AL vice-president Yunus Ali.

Speakers at the rally threatened to paralysed Khulna if the authorities fail to arrest the killers within 15 days.

Over half of 100 clinics in Rajshahi unregistered, axe falls on two only

Underhand deals with health officials alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

More than half of around 100 clinics in Rajshahi city are unregistered.

But health officials have decided to recommend action against only two-- Nazma Clinic and Ayesha Clinic-- sources said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Rajshahi Clinic Inspection Committee on Thursday after a housewife died from wrong treatment at Nazma Clinic. A child with faulty operation at the same clinic is now fighting for life at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

The meeting decided to recommend to the Director General

(DG), Directorate of Health in Dhaka, to "permanently seal" the two clinics.

The meeting, held at Rajshahi Divisional Health Director's office, examined reports of a recent survey conducted by the civil surgeon's office here.

The survey revealed that the two clinics were operating in "non-sterile environments and without any specialist surgeon and required instruments".

Chaired by Divisional Health Director Dr Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, the meeting was also attended by Deputy Director Dr Reaz Uddin and Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Dr AK Fazlul Haque.

Talking to The Daily Star later, Dr Reaz Uddin said the decision to seal

the two clinics was taken as there were specific complaints against those.

Replying a question, he said a civil surgeon is authorised to conduct thorough survey of clinics annually and submit reports to the DG's office for necessary action.

Sources at Rajshahi civil surgeon's office however told this correspondent that survey reports are sent to DG's office every year, but no action has been taken against any unregistered clinics so far.

Authorities of the two clinics however claimed that the action against them was taken "intentionally".

Many of the top health officials are "randomly practising at unregistered clinics", they alleged.

Dr Sharmin Sultana, who operated upon the woman and the child at Nazma Clinic claimed that some of the health officials here are also doing operations at different unregistered clinics every day.

When contacted, Dr Abdul Mannan, president of Rajshahi Clinic and Diagnostic Owners' Association said unregistered clinics sprouted in the city due to negligence of the authorities.

"The authorities give little attention to regularly check treatment facilities at both registered and unregistered clinics and some of them reportedly have underhand deals with clinic authorities", Mannan alleged.

'Rapist' in Gram Sarkar !

Protesting villagers to go on hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

People of Ward No. 6 in Fatepur union under Hathazari upazila have protested inclusion of an alleged rapist in the newly formed Gram Sarkar unit there.

Abdul Malek was selected as a Gannya Mannya Bakti (elite) in the Gram Sarkar formed there on August 18 in presence of officials.

The villagers' representatives at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club on Thursday alleged that during formation of the Gram Sarkar, the Thana Project Implementation Officer took signatures and finger prints of all present there, without holding any election or naming the contestants.

When they later came to know

that Abdul Malek, a rapist, was included in the Gram Sarkar, they protested, but to no effect.

They demanded immediate expulsion of Abdul Malek and his punishment.

They also announced a three-day programme, which include submission of memoranda to the Deputy Commissioner and LGRD Ministry on September 14 and 15 respectively and taken hunger strike on Chittagong Press Club premises on September 17.

Md Abul Kashem Khan read out the written statement at the conference. Local Union Parishad members Noor Mohammad Shah, Laila Yeasmin alias Noory, Shah Alam and Mujibur Rahman were also present among others.



PHOTO: STAR

A dance sequence at a function in Mymensingh town, organised by Nriya Dhara, a local cultural organisation, in aid of Suruj Ali, an ailing dance artiste.