

SNAPS

**Killing of Adibasi student protested**

**BSS, Natore**  
Adibasi National Council and Adibasi Students' Council on Wednesday jointly brought out a protest rally and held a meeting in front of the deputy commissioner's (DC) office here to protest the killing of an Adibasi school student named Laxin.  
The protestors demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers.  
Presided over by Sudarsan Hembran, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Adibasi Central Council President Anil Maraud, Secretary Rabindranath Saren, Workers Party leader Abdul Hasem Sarker and Mizanur Rahman.  
Adibasi sources said Laxin, a student of class five, was allegedly killed by one Sahara Khatun at Natabaria village under Budar upazila of the district on July 22.

**2 held with pistol in Rajshahi**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
Police arrested two youths and recovered a foreign pistol from their possession at Gourhanga area in the city on Saturday.  
The arrested are Shahidul Islam Rony of Shaheb Bazar and Zafar Islam of Hosheniganj.  
Police said they were wanted in several criminal cases filed with different police stations in the city. They were involved in crimes including extortion.  
Tipped off, Sergeant Shahin Iqbal challenged them at Gourhanga when they were passing through the area riding a motorcycle and recovered a USA-made 9mm pistol.

**By-polls in 8 Feni wards on Sept 25**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni.**  
By-election in eight wards in Feni Poursabha will be held on September 25.  
A total of 36 candidates will contest for commissioner posts in wards 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 13.  
The posts were declared vacant by the local government ministry as the elected representatives remained absent from consecutive meetings of the poursabha, sources said.

**No party election till minister is there !**

**BNP selects committees for Tanore upazila, two municipalities**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Avoiding election, ruling BNP on Friday selected its committees for Tanore upazila and Tanore and Mundumala municipalities as per the desire of a minister, party sources said.  
The committees were selected at the biannual council of Tanore upazila BNP, held on Tanore Pilot High School premises.  
Election was avoided as the minister preferred selection of his men, the sources said.  
As per the selection, Shish Mohammad retained his post of president of the 71-member Tanore

upazila committee while Monsur Rahman and Mozammel Haque Khan were made general secretary and organising secretary respectively.  
Khakikur Rahman, Arshad Ali and Shahidullah were made president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively of the 51-member Tanore municipal committee.  
The Mundumala BNP committee was formed with Mozammel Haque, Afshar Ali and Aatur Rahman as president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively.  
Talking to The Daily Star, Shish Mohammad said the question of election does not arise as long as

the minister is there.  
"All BNP men in Tanore abide by the minister's decision and the committees have been selected unanimously", he said.  
But many BNP leaders preferring anonymity said they were not given any chance to contest for posts in the new committees.  
"Whenever we stood up (at the convention) for election, we were forcibly stopped and some pro-election leaders were driven out", said one of them.  
More than 100 people joined BNP during the council. Notable among them was rajshahi University teacher Mozammel Haque.

**Conspiracy on to oust tribesmen from CHT**

**Jumma 'betrayers' join hands with vested quarters, Larma says**

**MONIRUL ALAM, JOGLUL HASAN FROM KHAGRACHHARI**

Parbattya Chattagram Jono Sanghati Shamitee (PCJSS) Chairman Jitirindria Bodhipriyo larma alias Santu Larma on Saturday alleged that vested quarters are conspiring to "oust" the jumma people from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).  
A section of jumma people who betrayed with the tribesmen have joined the vested quarters, he said but did not mention the name of any organisation.  
Mentionably, PCJSS' rival United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) is opposing the peace agreement signed by PCJSS with the then Awami League government in 1997.  
Santu Larma was addressing a rally at Lemuchhori school ground in Mohalchhori where at least two persons were killed and around 400

houses gutted in arson on August 26, allegedly by Bangalee settlers joined by some tribesmen.  
"The Mohalchhori incident is not an different one. It is the latest act of violence which is part of the conspiracy going on for long to oust the jumma people from the hills".  
"We will never pardon them whether they are Chakmas, Tripuras or Marmas".  
He said six major attacks by "outsider" Bangalees took place after the (CHT) peace agreement was signed. Vested quarters instigated them in most of these attacks, he alleged.  
Political reasons are behind the Mohalchhori incidents, he said and emphasised full implementation of the peace agreement to stop such incidents.  
But the government seems indifferent to this, he added.  
He urged the affected tribesmen

to begin life anew.  
"We never flee our ancestral homes. We will have to struggle more to realise our rights".  
During the visit, PCJSS leaders distributed food grains, cloth, utensils, mosquito nets and money among the affected tribesmen in Babupara, Lemochhari and Rameshhu Kerberypara villages.  
Earlier, he held a meeting with Mohalchhori Upazila Nirbahee Officer Khuzir Ahmed, village headmen and Union Parishad leaders. Local people submitted three memorandums to them demanding justice action against the attackers.  
During the visit Santu Larma also exchanged views with a two-member Jatiya Party (Ershad) parliamentary team which came from Dhaka to visit the affected areas.



A Girl Guides Camp was organised by the Noakhali unit of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association at Majidde Court Government Girls' High School auditorium on Thursday. Participants are seen performing at the concluding session of the camp. Ninety-seven girl guides from 13 schools took part in the camp.

**Man hacked for resisting drug trading**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

Drug peddlers and miscreants hacked a man in front of people during daytime in the town for trying to build an anti-drug movement.  
The criminals armed with lethal weapons attacked Manjurul Talukdar, 50, at Kristapur when he was going to Patgudam bus stand on his way to Dhaka at about noon on Saturday.  
Manju was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH). He was later taken to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated.  
Immediately after the incident, police arrested three persons including two women from the area.  
They are Maleka, 25, wife of Shah Kamal, Anki, 14, daughter of Nurul Islam and Rahmat Ali son of Abbas Ali.  
According to police and eyewitnesses, Manju was attacked by a group of drug traders including Alal and Moral.  
No case was filed till filing of the report at about 6:30 pm Saturday.  
Police officials visited the spot.

**Borrowers in Rajshahi urge HBFC Stop auction, filing cases till HC verdict**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Rajshahi unit of the Association of Borrowers from House Building Finance Corporation (ABHFC) on Saturday urged the HBFC to stop filing cases and auctioning borrowers' houses till a High Court verdict on the Parliamentary Petition Committee's (PPC) decision.  
ABHFC leaders at a press conference here said the PPC on April 8, 2001 decided for lower interest on house building loan and repayment in easy instalments.

As the HBFC was dilly-dallying in implementing the decision, ABHFC Secretary General Fazlul Haque filed a writ with the High Court on June 19, which is awaiting disposal, they said.  
The ABHFC leaders also claimed that HBFC was charging very high interest rates on loans.  
Many of the borrowers in Rajshahi have lost their houses and lands after taking loan from HBFC and fate of more 1500 is uncertain, ABHFC General Secretary Golam Sarwar Swapon said in his written statement.

Among others, its president Prof Abdul Haque, senior vice-president Abdul Momin and journalists Abul Hossain Malek and Fazlul Haque spoke at the press conference, held at Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries office.  
They said HBFC has put 46 houses on auction illegally in Rajshahi city while the loan recovery rate is over 74 percent.  
The Rajshahi HBFC has Tk 112.76 crore unpaid loans including Tk 65 crore interests.

**Date-expired X-ray films used in Manikganj**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj**

Date-expired X-ray films are being used in all government hospitals in Manikganj district for about one year.  
Manikganj Sadar hospital officials said a consignment of X-ray films marked with a September 2002 expiry date reached here in June last year for use by the Sadar hospital and the six upazila health complexes in the district.  
These films made by AFGA company are still being used, they said.  
When contacted, Manikganj Civil Surgeon said X-ray reports using the films are "not very bad" though their date expired long ago.  
He said he has received no allegation about the X-ray films.

**Friday's gun battle in Noakhali Seven jungle bandits held from Char Jabbar**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali**

Police on Saturday arrested seven jungle bandits from the remote shoal areas of Char Jabbar thana.  
The bandits were arrested following a combing operation launched by police in deep forest at Char Bagga, Char Zia and nearby villages under Char Jabbar and Char Jubilee. Assistant police Superintendent (ASP) Motiur Rahman led the operation.  
Three jungle bandits were killed and 20 others injured in a gunfight with police and the gang of bandits Safi Batainna at Char Jabbar on Friday. The gunfight took place when the Batainna force raided the houses of landless leader Siraj and Shah Alam Mistry as they testified against them in court on Thursday.  
Police and locals informed that the case was lodged against the gang of Safi Batainna for their

atrocities committed in July in the Char Bappa area.  
Char Jabbar Officer-in-Charge (OC) Habibur Rahman disclosed that over 1,000 jungle bandits led by Safi Batainna entered the houses of Siraj, Shah Alam Mistry and Bhulu and enquired their whereabouts. As all of them were absent the bandits set their houses on fire which resulted in ruination of eight houses.  
On information Char Jabbar police advanced. They were intercepted by bandits near Pankhar Bazaar. A fierce gunbattle ensued which lasted for an hour. The main accomplice of Batainna, Hanif Commander, 40, Nur Alam, Mistry, 50, and Khoka, 37, died on the spot.  
Additional police force from Noakhali joined the police contingent of Char Jabbar. At this stage the bandits fled away with their casualty.  
Police said, Friday morning trip

on secret information Char Jabbar thana police arrested two members of jungle bandits team lead by Shafi Batayina (local world of cowbody) from Char Bagga.  
Hearing the message hundreds of jungle bandits attacked nearby village Char Jubilee and set fire at three dwelling houses and harassed woman. Then Char Jabbar thana Police ceased them. At Pankhar (Fan's) Bazaar area police and bandits confronted exchanging fire.  
Three bandits were shot dead at the spot by police. Later bandits fled to deep forest.  
Police operation will continue for the next few days.  
The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Noakhali and the Police Superintendent (SP) of Noakhali visited the spot.

**Clinic attacked after death of patient**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah**

Angry people attacked a private clinic at Arappur in the town, manhandled its owner and damaged furniture on Saturday following death of a female patient after operation.  
Bilkis Khatun, 26, wife of Hasan Rahman of Pababhati village in municipal area, was admitted to Seba Clinic for kidney operation for removing stone.  
Her family later alleged that she fell sick immediately after the operation and died on Friday night.  
They claimed that she died from wrong treatment.

**Upazila PIO suspended for corruption**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

Shyamnagar Upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Radheshyam Das has been temporarily suspended for corruption.  
The suspension order from the Local Government and Engineering Department reached Shyamnagar on Thursday.  
Sources said, the government had allotted Tk 1,71,000 for reconstruction of Sabura-Chandimukhi road in Shyamnagar upazila in the last financial year (2002-2003).  
Chairman of Gabora Union Parishad Safiul Azam Lenin, in collaboration with the PIO, misappropriated part of amount. It was revealed in an inquiry conducted by the Bureau of Anti-corruption.

**Teachers' 8-pt demand**

**Sit-in before Satkhira DC's office**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

The Satkhira unit of National Teachers Employees Front, as organisation of non-government teachers, staged a sit-in in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office for about two hours on Thursday to press its 8-point demand.  
Earlier, it brought out a procession in the town and held a rally in front of the DC's office.  
The rally, presided over by Principal Yunus Ali, district convenor of the unit, was addressed by, among others, SK Amanullah, Abul Kashem, Mainul Hasan, Ashraf Ali Siddiqe and Abdul Gafur.  
The speaker urged Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to intervene for so that their demands are met.  
The demands include ten per cent enhancement of salary, house rent, medical and dearness allowance, as committed by the government earlier.

**Outlaw Debu confesses to hand in murders**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Arrested outlaw Debaprashad alias Debu in his judicial statement has confessed to his direct involvement in the murders of Khokon Biswas and Yunus Ghazi of Shahash village in Dumuria upazila.  
The statement, made from 1 pm till 5 pm on Friday under Section 164, was recorded by a First Class Magistrate.  
Debu was a front ranking leader of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP).  
Khokon Biswas and Yunus Gazi were gunned down at a wedding function on May 9 this year.  
A case was filed on May 11 with Dumuria thana without naming any accused.

Debu was taken on eight days' remand on Thursday. She is being quizzed by senior police officials at Dumuria thana in tight security in connection with the double murder and the murder of Humayun, also recorded with Dumuria thana.  
According to a senior police official, police also recorded a 52-page statement of the outlaw, made under Section 161.  
But he declined to disclose contents of the statements for the sake of investigation.  
Debu is giving clues about his party cadres. Officer-in-charge of Dumuria Thana Abu Hena said. The OC confirmed that combing operations are going on in different areas to arrest BCP outlaws and recover arms.

**Form 'national govt' to resolve crises: JSD**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Jatiya Samajtantric Dal (JSD) chief Hasanul Huq Inu has demanded formation of a 'national government' on the basis of consensus to 'free the country and its people from misrule of the four-party alliance government'.  
Exchanging views with journalists at the Khulna Press Club on Saturday, Inu said the immediate need is not to dislodge the government but to resolve the crisis by forming a national government.  
He said the country is in the grip of an international conspiracy, which has been proved by the Bogra ammunition haul. Another such ammunition haul was made in

Chittagong during Awami League rule, he said.  
The JSD chief said the country is not secure in the hands of the alliance government. Its sovereignty and independence is at stake due to free market economy in the name of globalisation, imposed by a superpower. The government is a stooge of the superpower, he alleged.  
He said the government has tarnished the image of the country by its "misrule". The ruling party has politicised the administration and is patronising criminals, he alleged.  
Law and order is deteriorating day by day. Religious fanatics have divided the nation and its people, which is dangerous for the country, the JSD chief said.

**7 staff of fake NGO held for cheating**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

Seven employees of a fake NGO were arrested at Kathaltoli in the town on Tuesday on charge of cheating people.  
They are Nesar Ahmed, Nurul Islam, Manjurul Islam, Yasmin Akter, Shangeeta Ghosh, Joyonti Chakma and Binita Chakma, all officials of Mushirat Foundation (MF).  
Sub Inspector Mohon Lal of Kotwali thana said MF collected several lakh taka from people as "savings", assuring them that they would be given interest-free loans. It started operation in the district town about 11 months back.  
After a few months, some of the "depositors" applied for loans, only to be disappointed. Some filed employees also became suspicious at this.  
Last week, some of its field employees came to know that the NGO would be wound up and the deposits misappropriated by the authorities.  
On Tuesday, when its chairman Moneam Khan and some of the officials come to the office at Kathaltola, they laid a siege, locked the office from outside and called police.  
Khan managed to escape.  
The arrested were produce before court on Thursday.



A blood donation campaign was organised by the Gopalganj unit of Mohila Dal at local press club recently to mark the 25th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).