

SNAPS

Freshers' reception

A RU CORRESPONDENT
A freshers' reception was held for the first year students of Library and Information Science Department at the Law gallery of Rajshahi University (RU) campus on Sunday.
Vice Chancellor Professor Faisal Islam Faruki attended the function as the chief guest while Pro-Vice Chancellor KHM Shahadat Hossain Mondol was present as special guest. A cultural programme was also held.

Two minor boys drown

UNB, Chandpur
Two minor boys drowned in separate incidents in the town Saturday.

One and a half year old Sumon, son of Muhammad Bhasani, drowned in the Meghna river at Puran Bazar at 9am. He was rescued after a hectic search.
In another incident, Rashed, 6, drowned in the Dakatia river while taking bath with his mother at noon. His body was recovered after a long search.

Workshop on growth of children

UNB, Pirojpur
A two-day advocacy and planning workshop on initial growth of children concluded at the district council on Sunday.
A total of 40 people including journalists, teachers, physicians, NGO representatives, lawyers, public representatives and government officials participated in the workshop, jointly organised by UNICEF and local Shishu Academy.

7 'listed criminals' among 93 held in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong
The Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested 93 people including seven 'listed criminals', two extortionists and 47 absconding accused from different parts of the city during the last 24 hours ending at 4 pm Sunday.
CMP sources said, Kotwali police arrested two 'listed criminals'—Mainul Alam alias Mostak and Shahidul Alam alias Roni alias Rana— from Askardighirpur in the city in the early hours of Sunday.
The five other 'listed criminals' are Mohammad Babar, Shafiqul Alam Chowdhury, Younus Mian, Ershad Ullah alias Ashraf and Saiful Islam alias Titash.
Separate cases have been filed with respective police stations.

Meeting in Rajshahi in memory of Lee Kyang Hae

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
A condolence meeting was held in Rajshahi city on Sunday in memory of Lee Kyang Hae, a farmer and leader of the South Korean Federation of Farmers and Fishermen, who committed suicide in protest against the Fifth World Trade Organisation Ministerial conference in Cancun, Mexico.
Association for Good Governance, a local Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) organised the meeting at Rajshahi Public Library.
A discussion on 'Responsibility of Bangladesh People in Context of the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun' was also held.

Workers lay siege to RHD office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Workers on Sunday laid siege to Barisal divisional office of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) for two hours demanding withdrawal of a decision to hand over construction and maintenance work of about 9,000-kilometre roads to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and also realisation of other demands.
They locked the office of RHD Additional Chief Engineers.
Following the siege they brought out a procession in the city.
Other demands included cancellation of a decision to stop a privatisation move of the ferry services in the southern region, regularisation of services of charge workers and cancellation of execution of IDC settings.



A partial view of the meeting after a sit-in held near Patkelghata bridge at Tala in Satkhira on Friday, demanding re-excavation of the Kobadak river.

Outlaws disclose names of godfathers, beneficiaries

BCP chief Mrinal maintains links with 2 MPs, possesses huge arms including AK-47, Debu tells police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Arrested outlaws Debaprasad alias Debu and Akbar Hossain alias Aku have disclosed to police the names of their political godfathers and financial beneficiaries in police department.
But police declined to disclose their names.
The two activists of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) were quizzed together at Dumuria thana on Saturday and Sunday.
Sources said Debu and Aku were accusing each other in front of interrogators for several murders committed so far at the instruction of their party chief Mrinal. They are on remand.
They gave information about 15 firearms, of which two guns were recovered on Saturday from Baruna village. Hunt for the remaining 13 arms is on, police said.
But they are yet to give information about Mrinal's arms and whereabouts.
"Mrinal is a cunning fellow. He is very cautious to evade police action", Debu told the interrogators.
He also told police how their party chief escaped arrest during the Operation Spider Web. On several occasions, he was about to be arrested but managed to escape, Debu said.
In one occasion, Mrinal started offering "prayer" at a mosque in Shovna union in Dumuria when his

house was stormed by joint forces during the operation.
Debu told police that Mrinal is in possession of a huge quantity of arms including AK-47 and some Chinese rifles, bought from India.
He has amassed wealth by collecting tolls from fish farm owners, industrialists and businessmen.
Debu and Aku further told interrogators that Mrinal always keeps close touch with some political leaders and two members of parliament. BCP is being helped in different ways by its political godfathers.
Some police officials are still are beneficiaries of BCP, Debu said in his judicial confession made on Friday.

Parbattya Chattagaram Jano Sanghati Shamity (PCJSS) chief Jotirindriya Bodhipriyo Larma alias Santu Larma has blamed Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) Chairman and BNP lawmaker Wadood Bhuiyan for the August 26 Mahalchhari incidents and demanded his removal from the post.
Wadood Bhuiyan was present at the upazila headquarters when settler Bangalees attacked houses of tribesmen in Mahalchhari on August 26, Shantu said at a protest rally at the district town.
"But he (Wadood) did not take any administrative measure (to stop those). Rather, he (Wadood) instigated the attackers", Santu alleged. Two persons were killed and at least 20 injured in the incidents.
Shantu Larma, also chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, put forward a nine-point demand for redress of Mahalchhari victims and solution to problems in

Re-excavate Kobadak river, save Satkhira

Hundreds led by political leaders hold rally, stage sit-in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Hundreds of people led by political leaders brought a procession, held a rally and staged a two-hour sit-in on Patkelghata bridge in Tala upazila demanding steps to save the Kobadak river passing through the area.
The programmes, held on Thursday last, were organised by Patkelghata Bachao Andolon Parishad (Movement to save Patkelghata).
The sit-in on the bridge beginning at noon created a long traffic jam on the Khulna-Satkhira road.
People from all walks of life

joined big procession and paraded roads in the area including Patkelghata bazaar and later held a rally near the bridge.
Shaikh Jahurul Islam, convenor the newly formed Patkelghata Bachao Andolon Parishad, presided over the rally.
It was addressed by, among others, BNP leader and former state minister Syed Didar Bakht, Tala thana BNP President A B M Altaf Hossain, Awami League leader Sheikh Nurul Islam, JSD leader AK Azad, Workers Party leader advocate Mustafa Lutfullah Islam, Jatiya Party leader SM Alauddin, journalists

Kalyan Bannerjee and Ramkrishna Chakraborty and Abdul Hossain, director of local NGO Setu.
The speakers said Patheghata, once a big business centre, is losing importance as river vessels can not reach there because the Kobadak is being silted.
The silted river is also creating pollution in the area, they said.
Farmers are the worst sufferers as the river dries up during winter, hampering irrigation and floods the entire Tala upazila in wet season.
They urged the authorities concerned to re-excavate the river to save the people.

Highway robbery 350 rice bags looted from truck in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Armed robbers beat the driver and the helper and looted 350 bags of rice from a truck at Tulshighat on the Santahar-Bogra highway Saturday night.
Police later rescued driver Nazrul Islam and helper Khoka Mia in an unconscious state from the empty truck, left on the roadside. They are being treated at a hospital here.
Police said the truck was going to Feni from Santahar in Noagaon.
When the truck reached near Tulshighat bus stand, another truck coming from behind overtook and barricaded it. Some 12 armed miscreants beat the driver and helper, took the rice bags into their truck and sped away.

Procession protesting "false" case by Jamaat leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Local people brought out a procession at Kaligonj upazila headquarter and handed over a memorandum to the UNO on Sunday demanding withdrawal of a "false" case filed against eight persons including a local journalist.
A local Jamaat-e-Islami leader filed the case on September 9 following alleged attack on him by some local people when he was erecting a madrasah, reportedly on railway land.
The journalist implicated in the case is Haider Ali Babu, local correspondent of Prothom Alo.
The accused are on bail, granted on September 10.

WTO confce protested

UNB, Chapainawabganj

UBINIG, an NGO, held a meeting in the town on Saturday to protest the WTO ministerial level conference now being held in Cancun, Mexico.

4 Gaibandha upazilas flooded again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Flash flood following flow of water from across the border has again gripped low lying areas of four upazilas in the district.
About 40,000 people in different shoal areas of Gaibandha Sadar, Sunderganj, Fulchari and Shaghata upazilas have been affected by the flood.
Many people are marooned while many have shifted to safer places.
According to Gaibandha Water Development Board (WDB), water levels of Brahmaputra, Teesta and Ghagot are rising fast but the rivers

are flowing below their danger marks.
The Brahmaputra and Ghagot rivers are flowing about one centimetre below their danger marks. WDB sources said the water levels may cross the danger marks any time.
Transplanted Aman seedlings on vast areas have gone under water.
With the sudden increase in water levels, erosion has intensified at Kapasia in Sunderganj upazila, Kamarjani in Gaibandha Sadar, Haldia in Shaghata and Balasi in Fulchari upazila, official sources said. The surging waters have already eroded many homesteads, they said.

Nine-point demand

Truckers'token hunger strike at Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gaibandha Truck Workers Union observed a two-hour token hunger strike on Sunday as part of agitation to press their 9-point demand.
The demands including ferry service between Ghutail and Balashi to ease Gaibandha-Dhaka road communication, construction of a truck terminal in the town and proposed Barodha bridge and an end to alleged police harassment.

Lalmonirhat Jubo League convention held

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Lalmonirhat town unit of Awami Jubo League held its convention here on Sunday.
President of Lalmonirhat district Awami League Alhaj Abul Hossain was present at the convention as chief guest.
District AL General Secretary Nazrul Haque, central Jubo League Organising Secretary Mamunur Rashid, its central leader Harun-Ar-Rashid were among others who attended the convention, held at the district Jubo League office.
It was presided over by Mizanur Rahman Mizan, secretary of Lalmonirhat town Jubo League.

Two killed by wives

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two persons have been killed allegedly by their wives in Satkhira and Sirajganj.
Our Satkhira Correspondent reported that one Kalimuddin Sardar, 35, of Chupria village in the Sadar thana was slaughtered while he was asleep on Saturday night.
Police suspect that he was killed by men hired by his wife Aklima Khatun as he came to know her extramarital affair with a man in the village.
A case has been filed with Satkhira thana.
A BSS report from Sirajganj said Abdul Wahab, a retired army man, was killed recently at Shampur village under Tarash upazila, allegedly by his wife.
In a case filed with Tarash thana, it has been alleged that Wohab was strangled by his wife Khairun Nahar with the help of a man with whom she had extramarital affair.



(Left) One of many houses gutted at Char Jabbar in Noakhali by jungle bandits on Friday. (Right) Panic-stricken women and children gather in front of their damaged houses while males have fled homes fearing reprisal by the bandits and alleged police harassment.

Five of bridal party die in Noakhali road mishap

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Five persons including two children died on the spot and seven others were injured, two of them critically, when a minibus carrying a bridal party fell into a roadside ditch Chatarpaiya in Senbag upazila on Sunday.
The dead were identified as Hazera Khatoun, 35, Roksana Aktar, 34, Kohinoor Begum, 17, Kabir Hossain, 9 and Imam Hossain, 7.
The two critically injured are

Shumi Aktar, 15 and Hosna Ara.
The bridal party was going to Chatarpaiya from Kashipur of Begumgonj thana for a marriage celebration.
Police recovered the bodies and sent the injured to Islamia Private Hospital at Commuhoani.
The microbus driver however escaped unhurt, OC Senbag thana OC Mozammel Hossain said.
A case was lodge with Senbag police.

OC arrested on charge of rape in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

The officer-in-charge of Jibannagar thana in Chuadanga has been arrested on charge of raping a woman.
Shah Alam, arrested on Saturday, is in Chuadanga jail hayat now. His bail prayer was rejected on Sunday.
He was arrested after the victim gave a statement before a First Class Magistrate alleging that she was violated at the OC's house at the thana headquarter Thursday night, Jibannagar thana police said.
Earlier, the OC was closed at the Chuadanga police line following rape allegations against him by

some local people.
The woman was taken to the OC's house by another woman named Chhoti Begum for engaging her as a domestic help. After being violated, she disclosed it to some local people, who brought the matter to the notice of UNO SwaukatAkbar.
The UNO informed the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent.
A First Class magistrate then recorded her statement under Section 164 of CrPC. The case was filed with Jibannagar thana on the basis of her statement police said.
Meanwhile, medical test found that the woman was raped, hospital sources said.

BCL leader abdcted by JCD men rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The joint secretary of Babuganj upazila unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and another BCL worker sustained serious injuries after being abducted and tortured allegedly by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres on Friday.
JCD cadres abducted Munir Hossain Ruman and his brother Manzurul Islam Milon.
Both the victims were signatories to a statement condemning attack on a BCL programme on Thursday.
They were rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) after being rescued on Friday and Saturday.
Victims and police sources told this correspondent that JCD cadres

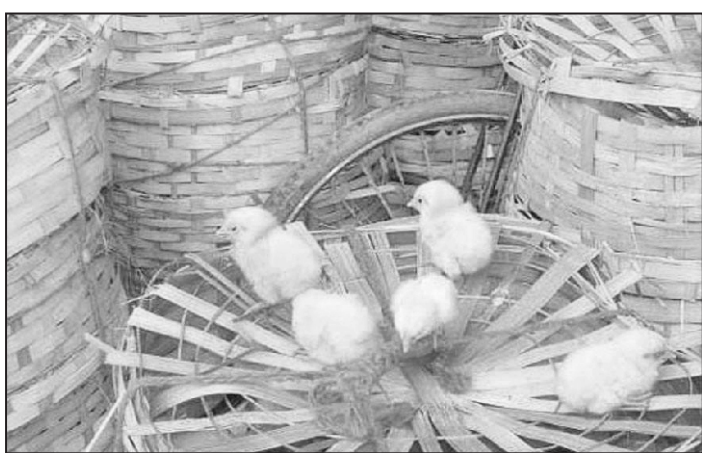
Enamul, Tulu, Sabbir, Shakhwat, Belal, Shaon, Bhulu, Razon and 30 other cadres abducted Ruman from a tea stall in front of Babuganj Degree College in the evening.
Later, SI Khalek Sikder of Babuganj Police Station rescued him on the next day in a critical condition from the Khanka Sharif of Hemayet Fakir, one kilometre off the college gate and sent him to Barisal SBMCH.
The same group also abducted Ruman's brother Milon, another BCL worker from the Bhangabunia Brigade area while he was looking for his abducted brother.
The abductors stabbed and injured him. He took shelter to a nearby house. From there he was sent to Barisal SBMCH.

Housewife, minor girl raped in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A housewife and a minor girl were raped in two separate incidents in Barisal on Friday.
Police and local sources told this correspondent that Lila Bhabuk, 40, mother of three children and wife of Ranjit Bhabuk of Bashaal village under Bakal Union Parishad (UP) was abducted and raped by Khalil Fakir, son of Wazed Fakir at Agailjhara on the same night.
At that time the victim was going to her neighbour's house.
Local people recovered her in nude state but rapist Khalil managed to flee with the help of his associate Noren.
A case is lodged with Agailjhara

Police Station. The victim was sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) on Sunday for medical test.
In another incident, Uttam Bala Shadhu, son of Suren Bala of Kathira village under the same upazila raped a four-year-old girl at their house in absence of her guardians.
Victim's mother Shibani Sarker and uncle Niren Bala informed this correspondent that they were under pressure for an amicable settlement and compromise. So, no medical test was done and no case was lodged till filing of this report on Sunday night.



Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel seized about 6,560 smuggled Indian chicken from Katakhal Bazaar in Rajshahi on Sunday.