

SNAPS

Most of Barguna govt rural clinics inoperative

BSS, Barguna
Most of the 78 community clinics in five upazilas of Barguna district, set up during Awami League rule, are under lock and key.

Local people said the government last year opened 27 of the clinics, but these are not functioning properly due to lack of doctors and medicines. These are manned by only one health assistant or a family welfare assistant. The rest are closed due to lack of health officials.

Human chain to protect Faridpur town

BSS, Faridpur
A human chain was formed in front of Faridpur Press Club on Friday demanding protection of Faridpur town from erosion by the mighty Padma.

Erosion affected people and a large number of citizens joined the human chain.

In the last two days, vast areas of Faridpur district were inundated with the fresh rise of water in Padam and Arial Khan rivers.

Owner's appeal goes unheeded

Land acquired for college violating HC injunction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi district administration has acquired 1.31 acres of private land at Mohishalbari in Godagari upazila for building a hostel and a playground for a private college, allegedly ignoring a High Court injunction, the landowners claimed.

They also claimed that the setting up of the college hostel under government initiative does 'not have any legal or logical basis' as the college is

The Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner's office had notified the landowners on April 28 that their 1.31 acres of land would be acquired for building a hostel and playground of Godagari Womens Degree College. The landowners on May 5 gave a written objection to it.

As their objections were unheeded, they filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) on June 21. An HC Bench comprising Justice Abdul Wahhab Miah and Justice Shamim Hasnain on August 27 ordered an injunction on the land acquisition.

But on September 9 some people allegedly having an order from the DC's office, occupied the land and raised 12 pillars, the landowners stated in another petition to the DC's office on September 11. The petition was submitted by one Rustam Ali on behalf of ten landowners.

The petitioner also attached a copy of the High Court order along with the petition and sought DC's initiative to provide them justice. But no step has been taken so

far. This has created commotion in the area as the college authority and the landowners are trying to establish their ownership on the land.

Talking to newsmen, Rajshahi DC Aziz Hasan denied the allegations and said he was not aware of the HC order and the latest situation.

Talking to this correspondent, Rustam Ali claimed that a minister is the governing body chairman of the college situated on nine bighas of land.

It has 107 students and 53 teachers with 10 percent pass record in degree and 14 percent in HSC examinations in 2002, he claimed.

When contacted over phone yesterday, district land acquisition officer Nazrul Islam said the land was acquired after taking permission from the land ministry.

Sitakunda trouble damage from toxic gas

Ship dismantled ignoring warning, DoE probe says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) after a two-day investigation said MT Santa Ynez which was being dismantled at Silvia Ship Breaking Industries at Kadam Rasul in Sitakunda had 'combustible sulfur' in its store.

Scrapping of the ship without removing the sulfur resulted in gushing out of toxic gas on Monday which damaged plants, crops and

killed poultry in about one and half kilometers area in Jahanabad village, DoE sources said. Officials of the ship breaking company were alerted not to scrap the store containing the sulfur, they said.

The one-man probe body comprising DoE Senior Chemist Md Shah Jahan Khan was formed at the directive of the environment ministry following dame caused by the toxic gas emission.

It started work on Thursday and finished it on Friday.

During the investigation Khan visited the spot surrounding areas and also talked to people. Even banana plants, eucalyptus trees and hyacinth were burnt in the area, the probe body found.

The gas created respiratory problem for the poultry causing their death, the sources said. The committee is likely to submit its report tomorrow.

Shamsur Rahman murder case

Inclusion of Ittefaq reporter's name in charge sheet protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Local journalists have condemned inclusion of the Ittefaq reporter Farazi Azmal Hossain in Janakantha journalist Shamsur Rahman murder case.

In a joint statement on Friday they said Farazi has been "deliberately implicated in the case at the instigation of some vested political quarters in Jessore". Shamsur Rahman was murdered in Jessore. The supplementary charge sheet is an instance of "ongoing repression on journalists", the statement said.

Signatories to the statement are Subhash Chowdhury (Bhorer Kagoi), Kalyan Bannerjee (Prothom Alo), Ramkrishna Chakraborty (Jugantar), Abdul Bari (Dristipat), Safiul Islam Khan (Kafela), Kazi Shahidul Haq Raju (Sangbad), Abdur Rashid (Independent), Kazi Dulal (Gramer Kagoi), Eyarab Hossain (Runner), Mozaffar Rahman (Janmabhanni), Mizanur Rahman (Janakantha), Prof Abu Ahmed (he Daily Star), Arun Banerjee (Observer), Obaidullah (Bhorer Dak), Kalidas Roy (Khabar Patra), Golder Shahin (Janata) and Neli Afrin (Dainik Tathya).

They demanded dropping of Farazi's name from the charge sheet and punishment of the killers.

BIWTA Sramik Union polls held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Election of Patuakhali BIWTA Ghat Sramik Union was held on Friday. Gazi Mizanur Rahman Sayeed and Sattar Miridha were elected president and secretary of the new body.

Rehabilitation of Jumma refugees demanded

72-hour road barricade in Khagrachari from Sept 26

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

Chittagong Hill Tracts Repatriate Jumma Refugee Welfare Association (RJRWA) leaders yesterday threatened of a 72-hour road barricade in Khagrachari from September 26 if effective steps are not announced by that time for proper rehabilitation of repatriated Jumma refugees.

They have also demanded security of life of all people in the hills and adequate relief for the Jumma people affected in Mahalchhari in

the August 26 incidents.

The RJRWA leaders announced the agitation programme at a press conference at the Khagrachari Press Club.

Its secretary Shantoshita Chakma Bakul read out a written statement at the press conference, also addressed by its president Povhakor Chakma.

Provokor alleged that there is a fresh bid to "oust" Jumma (tribal) people from the hills. This is evident from the fact that the refugees have not been properly rehabilitated,

which is violation of the agreement signed with the government in 1996.

Since then, at least five incident of attack on Jumma people took places, the Mahalchhari incident being the latest, he said.

He said a stalemate is prevailing regarding refugee rehabilitation although a taskforce is there for this.

The press conference was attended by, among others, Aji Boron Chakma, Bimolendu Chakma, Profullo Kumar Chakma, Thoi Hla Pru Marma and Niyong Karbery, all leaders of RJRWA.

Day-long anti-drug campaign at B'baria

Students, joined by people parade streets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

It was a different day for the people of Brahmanbaria town.

Hundreds of students and youths, joined by the elite and people from all walks of life, marched the streets yesterday with banners, festoons and placards reading slogans like "we are against drug, we are smart."

Municipal Chairman Helal Uddin and Civil Surgeon Md Ishak led the procession, part of a day-long anti-drug campaign programme.

People lined up on both sides as

the colourful procession passed through different streets.

The programme included a discussed meeting and a literary competition and was rounded off through giving prize to winners in the competition.

The discussion meeting was presided over by advocate Tanvir Buiyan with District and Sessions Judge Md Rafiuddin as chief guest and Police Superintendent Abul Kalam Azad as the special guest.

Vice Principal Muzibul Rahman, physicians Bazlur Rahman and Sadrul Huda Niaz, Kazi Safiqul

Islam, Abul Zaili, Abul Fayed, retired government official Mawlana Sazidul Rahman Zamal Uddin, Nurul Islam, Md Mainuddin Khaza, Minhazul Islam, Riaz Uddin Jami, advocate Kalu Mia and Md Supumed Islam spoke at the meeting.

The discussion meeting followed by the literary competition, joined by school students.

Addressing the discussion meeting Judge Md Rafi Uddin called upon the participants to build up a movement in all areas of the town against use of drug.

Polls in Magura UP today

Woman vying for chairman post, 6 others in fray

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Union Parishad election in Mohammadpur Sadar upazila will be held today after eleven years.

For the first time, a woman is contesting for the post of chairman. Eleven other women are contesting for the three reserve seats for women, official sources said. This has created enthusiasm among women voters.

Election commitments of female candidates are also quite positive.

"I am contesting the polls to work for ensuring women's rights and to eliminate social discrimination," said Rabeya Begum the lone female candidate for the post of chairman.

Women's voters are also enthused by his. "This is because a woman can go without hesitation to her representative," said Sufia Begum a voter in Dhoail village.

"Women in Mohammadpur union have proved that they are conscious and have overcome fatwa (order by a cleric which has no legal basis) and other religious taboos," said a teacher of Aminur Rahman Degree College.

Adequate security personnel including BDR have been deployed in nine wards as all the polling centres were identified as vulnerable.

The election was deferred due to legal complexities over delimitation of areas.

A total of 13, 119 voters are expected to exercise their franchise.

Fifty-three candidates including six for the post chairman and 36 for nine posts of member are in the fray.

Man sentenced for 'selling' wife at Kolkata brothel

Wife beaten to death in Satkhira

Our Correspondent, Satkhira

A man has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for selling his wife and sister-in-law at a brothel in Kolkata in West Bengal.

District and Session Judge AKM Zahir Ahmed on Thursday handed down the punishment to Abu Siddique of Naraujole village in the Sadar upazila.

Siddique had taken his wife Sabina Khatun Begum, 20 and sister-in-law Shahida Khatun, 17, to Kolkata on May 1 last year on the plea of providing jobs and sold them at a brothel there.

The women managed to escape from the brothel and returned to their parents.

The victims' mother filed a case with Satkhira than under the Woman and Children Repression Preventive Act.

In another incident on the same day, a housewife was beaten to death at Shubhankar Kati village in Tala upazila, allegedly by her husband for dowry.

Police said Ruhul Amin had married Rokeya Khatun, 18, six month back, taking Tk 5000 as dowry. He demanded more Tk 5000 as dowry and used to beat his wife often for this.

On Thursday, he beat and killing her.

To suppress the cause of her death, he poured insecticide into her mouth and told neighbours that she committed suicide.

But police who rushed there on information found injury marks on the body.

Police arrested Ruhul Amin and filed a case with Tala thana.



PHOTO: STAR

The newly constructed extension building of Nalta High School in Satkhira an old and noted institution, was demolished by miscreants recently. There was a controversy over ownership of the land on which the building was constructed. The land is claimed by the school and a local man.

15 injured as villagers clash in Patuakhalui

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 15 people were injured, ten of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of people at Muraida villagers in Dumki Upazila on Friday.

Police and local people said, the two groups, one led by Ashraf Howlader and the other by Kabir Muhuri, clashed over possession of a disputed land.

Both the groups used iron rods and lethal weapons.

The seriously injured have been admitted to Patuakhali Sadar Hospital. They are Kabir, 30, Sultan Howlader, 70, Jalal Howlader, 75, Helal, 30, Saidul, 20, Charag Ali, 35, Kashem Ali, 40, Rowsan Ara, 30, Morsheda, 35, and Ashraf Ali, 35. Police arrested two persons-- Maruf and Riaz-after the clash.

Removal of college principal demanded 'for corruption'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A rally held on the premises of Sunderganj Degree College yesterday demanded removal of its principal for his alleged involvement in corruption.

The principal was earlier suspended as per a decision of the college governing body for his alleged involvement in misappropriation of Tk 23 lakh collected as donation through recruitment of 29 teachers. The governing body meeting was presided over by

Mowlana Abdul Aziz MP.

Yesterday's rally was presided over by Abdus Samad.

It was addressed by, among others, Awami League leader Mokbul Hossain, Nurunnabi Pramanik, of Jamaat-e-Islami, Moksud Mia of JSD, Nur-e-Alam of CPB, Birendra Sarker, Mahbubur Rahman Mukta and Golam Mostafa.

They demanded immediate removal of the principal for the sake of maintaining academic atmosphere in the college.

Teachers 17-pt demand Rally, procession in Manikganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The Manikganj district unit of Bangladesh Teachers-Employees Federation brought out a procession in the town and held a rally in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office on Thursday to realise its 17-point demand.

The demands include payment of 100 per cent of salary of teachers and employees and house rent by the government.

The rally, presided over by Arshed Ali Chowdhury, president of the federation's Manikganj unit, was addressed by, among others, Prof Azhar Uddin, Prof Mir Moksed, Aminul Islam, Mojibur Rahman, Iskander Mirja, and Laxmi Chatterji.

Pir followers, rivals clash in Ctg : 10 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least ten people were injured when two rival Islamic organisations clashed at a rally on the premises of Jhautala railway station here on Friday.

Anjumane Al Biyeeniat, an Islamic organisation formed with followers of Pir Razarbagi Syed Mommad Dillur Rahman, organised the rally to protest allegedly derogatory comments about their Peer, witnesses said.

A rival group styled Jagroto Touhidi Janata comprising leaders and activities of several Islamic political organisations attacked the rally, they said.

The attackers ransacked the pandal and snatched the mikes of the rally.

Chase and counter-chase took place when the activists of Tauhidi Janata attacked their rivals with lethal weapons and brick-bats, they added.

Later, police brought the situation under control.