

SNAPS

Udichi convention held

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
A convention of Udichi Shilip Gosthi, Patuakhali, was held on Sunday on the Shaheed Minar premises. Mahmud Selim, secretary general of Udichi's central committee, was the chief guest while municipal chairman Mostaq Ahmed was the special guest at the function. Gazi Mainuddin Tarjan was in the chair. The convention elected a 33-member committee with Gazi Mainuddin Tarjan as president and Nasrin Sultana as secretary.

Images of goddess damaged

UNB, Sirajganj
Hoodlums damaged images of goddess Durga and other god and goddess set up at a village in Kamarkhand upazila early Monday to celebrate the Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Hindu community. Police said the miscreants entered the puja mandap at 1 am at village Gopalpur and damaged five idols. Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kamarkhand Abul Kalam Azad and Officer-in-Charge Abdur Rashid visited the spot.

13 get life in Barisal in 35 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Courts in Barisal gave life terms to 13 people and other varying jail terms to another 25 in 35 days from August 1 to September 4. Among those given life term, one was sentenced for murder, 9 for rape and three for possessing illegal arms.

According to court sources, Shahin Molla of Khudrokat, Babuganj, was sentenced for life for murdering his wife Kanchi Begum. The Speedy Trial Tribunal gave life terms to Kamrul Islam, Faisal and Hanif for raping a woman at Kashipur in Barisal. Hanif was the brother-in-law of the raped woman. The three were also fined one lakh taka. The same tribunal gave life term

Couple electrocuted

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
A couple was electrocuted at Amragachia village under Mirjagonj upazila in the district on Monday. Atahar, 40, came in contact with a live wire while cutting a tree. His wife Aklima, 35, tried to save him and was also electrocuted, police said.

Jamaat-e-Islami, Shashantantra Andolon clash 50 hurt in Niphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari
At least 50 people were injured in clashes between activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Ismaili Shashantantra Andolon (ISA) at Jaldhaka on Sunday evening. An office of ISA was also damaged by activists of Jammata and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS). ISA arranged a public meeting

near Jaldhaka Bazar. While addressing the meeting, party leaders allegedly criticised the role of Jamaat and local MP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, a Jamaat leader. This angered activists of Jamaat and ICS, who swooped on the meeting with lethal weapons. The Jamaat-Shibir workers damaged the pandal and indiscriminately beat the audience. As Sunday was a market day,

many people attended the meeting. At least five people were trampled as panicked people ran for safety when the trouble began, local people and police said. Being informed, a police team rushed there and controlled the situation. Jaldhaka ISA leaders later alleged that the attack was conducted on order from local Jamaat MP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

All 5 brothers are 'listed criminals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
They are five brothers and all are 'hardened listed criminals', police say. They are Bacchu Hossain alias Kalu, Mostafa Kamal alias Bhutto, AL Amin, Zakir Hossain and Jahangir Hossain of Bastuhara Colony under Daulatpur thana. Bachhu Hossain, a wanted 'listed criminal', was arrested recently from Sonadanga along three others with Indian currency notes of Rs 8, 40,000.

Mostafa Kamal Bhutto is now in Khulna Jail as an accused in a double murder case. AL Amin is wanted by police as a 'notorious drug trafficker' and an activist of outlawed NBCP. Zakir Hossain, a 'professional killer' is wanted as the prime accused in labour leader Nazem Sarder murder case. He is undergoing 14 years' RI in Tihar Jail in New Delhi in a murder case, police said. Zahangir Hossain is an accused in two dacoity cases.

Rigging alleged Re-counting sought in Magura UP polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura
Defeated chairman candidate in Jagdal Union Parishad election, Abul Khayer Bachchu, has demanded recounting of votes, alleging rigging in Sunday's polls. In a written complaint submitted to the Deputy Commissioner yesterday, he demanded re-counting of votes cast at Rupati Madrassah, Jagdal High School and Azampur Primary School centers. According to unofficial results announced on Monday, BNP-backed candidate Waliur Rahman won the polls with 3,205 votes, followed by Abul Khayer with 3,177 votes. In the petition, Khayer also alleged that BNP supporters ousted his agents from Rupati Madrassah centre.

Bus dacoity

UNB, Habiganj
Highwaymen swooped on a bus in the hilly area of Dhaka-Sylhet highway on Monday night and looted valuables worth Tk 5 lakh leaving 10 passengers injured.

Unchained at last ...

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi
Parul is now free. The chain that shackled the sixteen year-old girl for about a year has been removed. Her parents had chained Parul as she became mentally retarded after being 'betayed' by a youth, and failing to get justice. But she looked quite normal when human rights activists took her into their custody on Sunday. Bangladesh chapter of the Mental Health Association of United Kingdom (MHAUK) took Parul to their custody.



Parul

"She (Parul) will be taken to Dhaka and kept at the Drop In Center for treatment and rehabilitation", Lily Ahmed, Country Director of MHAUK told newsmen in the city. A MHAUK delegation led by Lily came to Rajshahi on September 28 and visited the house of Parul's parents where she was chained. "Once she is cured, she will be given a job-oriented training for her rehabilitation and we will go for legal action against those who cheated her", said Salekur Rahman, an advisor to MHAUK. She also replied to a few

questions by newsmen. Parul, daughter of day labourer Abdus Samad of Baruihati village in Bagmara upazila was chained by her parents. Her parents earlier said she became mentally retarded after a series of alleged deceptions. Parul worked at a house in the village as a maid in the 1998. She fell prey to the housemaster's son who seduced her promising marriage. As she became pregnant and pressed him for marriage, he took

her to Naogaon in the name of court marriage and forced her to undergo abortion. Back home, Parul lost her job. Arbitrations went against her as her former housemaster was influential. Parul's mother Raheda Biwi filed a case with a Magistrate Court in Rajshahi on May 6, 1999 after the local police station declined to record a case. Asked by the court, local police investigated the matter and submitted a final report, allegedly due to the influence of her former housemaster. The case was dismissed. Deceived socially and legally, Parul became mentally insane. Samad got her treated at Pabna Mental Hospital by selling the only piece of land he had. She was married to one Saidul Islam of Shingara village in Atrai upazila. Perhaps, Parul was fate obsessed. Her husband pressed for dowry. Often beaten, she became mentally retarded again. Her husband left her at her parents' house. But, her parents had nothing left for her treatment. They chained her.

Timber seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati
Forest officials in separate drives on Sunday seized a huge quantity illegal timber from Down Camp area under Bilaichhari upazila and Balukhali area under the Sadar upazila. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Rezaul Sikder and Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) Saiful Islam went to Reaghyong reserve forest on a surprise visit and found 3000 feet timber was being taken away illegally. They seized the timber. In another drive, they seized about 1000 feet timber and two engine boats used to carry the timber from Kaptai lake in Balukhali area.

5 injured in acid attacks

STAR NATIONAL DESK
Five persons including a woman were injured in acid attacks in Magura and Chuadanga on Saturday and the night before. Our Magura Correspondent reported that four youths were injured when acid was thrown on them at Khilgati village in Shalikhia upazila on Saturday. The victims are Lavlu, 22, Monirul, 20, Piar Ali, 20 and Ariful, 15. They came under the attack while gossiping in front of the house of one Nurul Islam, their relative. They came from Goyeshpur village under Madhukhali upazila in Faridpur district to visit Islam. They have been admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

A case has been lodged with Shalikhia thana in this regard. None was arrested. A BSS report from Chuadanga said one Shefali alias Muni Khan, 26, daughter of Rabiul Hoque of Buzrukargari Bananipara, suffered severe burn injuries when a miscreant threw acid when she was asleep at her father's house at night. Police said the attacker has been identified as Ansar Ali, 35, son of Surat Ali of the same area. The victim was taken to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital where doctors said her left eye was damaged. A case has been lodged with Chuadanga Sadar Police but the culprit could not be arrested, police said.

Three JCD men expelled for attack on police outpost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
The Sylhet district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has expelled three party activists for their involvement in the attack on a police camp in the city on Saturday. They are district JCD Social Welfare Secretary Abu Saleh Lokman and members Abu Nosor Ahea (Suman) and Mahmudul Hasan Zuned. A joint statement signed by the JCD president and the secretary said their primary membership of the party has been scrapped. The three were among a group of people who attacked Ambarikhana police outpost in an effort to snatch two party activists held for beating a BNP man. The two held by police were Imon and one of his accomplices. The attackers had fired at least 30 shots at the police outpost. In reply, police fired 14 shots, police said. Ahsanul Haque, the BNP activist who was beaten by JCD activists on Saturday, has been admitted to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Haque's father Abdur Quayum of Ambarikhana Barobazar area filed a case accusing seven persons. But police recorded a GD in connection with the attack on the police outpost, sources said.

100 fall sick after taking hotchpotch at Urs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari
At least 100 people were attacked with intestinal diseases after taking hotchpotch at a Urs Mahfil (Muslim religious festival) at South Khari Bari village under Tapa Kharibari union in Dimla upazila on Friday night. Thirteen of them were rushed to Dimla upazila health complex, doctors there said. Some of the affected persons said they started vomiting soon after taking the hotchpotch. This created added burden on the health workers as many diarrhoea patients are taking treatment at the health complex. At least 27 people died and scores were attacked with diarrhoea in Nilphamari district in the last one week.



PHOTO: STAR
Potential turns into problem: (Left) The Narasundha river flowing through Kishoreganj town has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes as it has been totally covered with water hyacinth. (Right) At Bara Bazar in the town the river has become a canal due to encroachment by unscrupulous people. The river needs to be saved by demolishing unauthorised structures and re-excavating to keep the environment of the town free from pollution.

Narasundha river now a breeding ground for mosquitoes

Free flow obstructed due to encroachment

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj
The Narasundha river, flowing through the heart of Kishoreganj town, has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes as it has been fully covered with water hyacinth. Moreover, unscrupulous people have grabbed the river illegally and constructed unauthorised structures. At Baro Bazaar point of the town its natural flow has been obstructed and it has been turned into a mere canal. The Narasundha river is a branch of the mighty Brahmaputra flowing through the district headquarters from Hussainpur to the Dhand river at Itna.

Water-logging has become a perennial problem of the town dwellers here due to illegal grabbing of the river. The river water is also polluted as the municipality authorities dump garbage in the river. Besides, the sewerage line of Kishoreganj jail is directly linked to the river. As a result the surrounding of the river has been polluted. The district administration leases the river for pisciculture for every three years alternately. But the lease holders become losers due to damage of fish by pollution of river water. The district administration do not take measure to end illegal occupation of the river or its re-excavation.

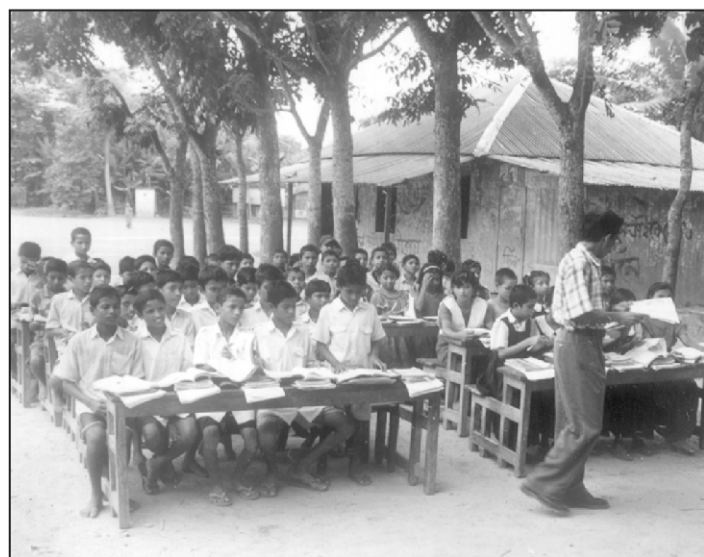


PHOTO: ALIMUZZAMAN MIA
Believe it or not, class is going on at Arpara Government Primary School under Sadar upazila in Gopalganj district. A storm damaged this school in 1991. Since then it was not reconstructed. But who cares?