

## SNAPS

## SEU campus opens

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**  
A campus of South East University (SEU), a private university, was inaugurated in the town on October 10.

Vice-Chancellor of the university Professor M Shamsur Ali addressed the inaugural session held at the auditorium of local Zila Parishad as the chief guest while RI Sarker was in the chair.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh Md Saiful Islam, Professor M Korban Ali, Professor Dr A R Khan and campus coordinator Kamrul Hasan Milon addressed the function.

## Five pillar pin smugglers held

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**  
Five pillar pin smugglers, four of them Indian nationals, were arrested by BDR from a house at Puratan Satkhira village in the Sadar upazila on Sunday.

A pillar pin (magnet), removed for smuggling to India, was also recovered from their possession.

The arrested Indian nationals are Hai Biswas and Kivon Goldar of Barasat Sadar, and Krishna Pada Mojumdar and Thakurdas Mondal of Kolkata in West Bengal. The Bangladesh national is Abu Taher of Puratan Satkhira, BDR sources said.

Tipped-off, BDR personnel of Jhowdanga border outpost led by Nayek Subedar Golam Mostafa raided the house of one Abdul Hamid and arrested them. The five are members of an organised gang of pillar pin smugglers. A case was filed with Satkhira police station.

## Touchstone statue recovered

**BSS, Rajshahi**  
Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel in an anti-smuggling drive recovered a 281-kilogram touch-stone statue from a pond at Rajabari village under Godagari upazila Saturday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR squad went to the village and seized the statue worth about Tk 1.41 crore. But none could be arrested. The statue was brought there to be smuggled to India, BDR sources added.

In other drives, BDR personnel seized huge quantities of smuggled goods valued at about Tk 4.06 lakh from different areas.



Utter mismanagement... (Left) A dog follows a trolley carrying food for diarrhoea patients at Dimla Upazila Health Complex in Nilphamari and (right) all the four members of a family are undergoing treatment at the same health complex. The photos were taken yesterday afternoon.



PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

## Diarrhoea claims 13 more in Nilphamari, 3 other districts

No sign of let up: Report on stool culture did not reach Nilphamari from ICDDR,B in seven days

## STAR NATIONAL DESK

The diarrhoea situation is showing no signs of improvement in Nilphamari while the disease is spreading in Lalmonirhat, Magura and Jamalpur.

The disease claimed two more lives in Nilphamari in 48 hours ending Monday noon, one in Magura on Monday and one in Lalmonirhat on Saturday.

A BSS report from Jalampur said nine people died from diarrhoea, but it did not specify the time.

Our Nilphamari Correspondent EAM Asaduzzaman reported that two more persons died and 209 patients were admitted to the six hospitals in the district in three days till yesterday.

Another 314 were treated at the hospitals during the period, according to Mahbub-e-Rabbani, in-charge at the district health department control room.

The two dead are Rafiqul Islam, 60, of Niz Vogdaburi village in Domar upazila and Nazmul Haque, 4, son of Abu Bakkar of Niz Para village in Dimla upazila. They died at Domar and Dimla upazila health complexes.

With these, the official death toll from the disease rose to 30 and unofficial toll to 43.

The Nilphamari Civil Surgeon

however claimed that the situation was under control.

To combat the disease, the district health department opened six diarrhoea wards in the five upazila health complexes and in the Sadar Hospital and seven treatment centres in worst affected seven villages.

But the management at the hospitals and centres, with patients lying on floors and corridors, is very poor because of inadequate number of doctors and nurses.

During a visit on Sunday at noon, the Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer was not seen at Dimla Upazila Health Complex. An official there said he was on leave on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat.

The atmosphere was very dirty and diarrhoea patients were seen taking food amid stool and vomit on the floor.

Dr Shamsur Ali, the lone physician there said the hospital could not keep clean due to shortage of staff. "But we are trying hard", he added.

At the hospital, some families were seen with all the members attacked with diarrhoea.

Shahidur Rahman of Kakra village under Nautara union and Hossen Ali of South Gayabari village under Gayabari union in Dimla told this correspondent that all their family members are

attacked with diarrhoea.

Doctors suspect that the diarrhoea in the district is unrelenting because the patients are being attacked with a new type of germ which is stronger and more harmful than the typical diarrhoea germ.

But this is yet to be determined as report on stool culture is yet to reach from ICDDR,B Dhaka, they said. A team from ICDDR,B, Dhaka collected samples of stool and vomit last week for culture.

"We do not now whether we are giving the proper treatment because the germ is yet to be identified", one doctor said seeking anonymity.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent S Dilip Ray reported that one person died from diarrhoea and at least 200 people were attacked with the disease in Hatibandha, Aditmari and Sadar upazilas on Friday and Saturday.

Sabir Hossain, 30, of Dawabari village under Hatibandha upazila died on Saturday.

Eight patients have been admitted to Hatibandha Upazila Health Complex, one to Aditmari and one to the Sadar Hospital, official sources said. Sixty-five patients were treated at the hospitals during the period.

People in the affected areas said no medical team visited them and

there was shortage of saline.

When contacted, Lalmonirhat Civil Surgeon Dr Sohrab Hossain Sarker said a special medical team was in the affected area.

Our Magura Correspondent Hossain Seraj reported that diarrhoea claimed one life and attacked seven persons on Monday in Magura Sadar upazila.

Twenty year-old Tauhidur Rahman died at Azampur village in Magura Sadar upazila, Sadar Hospital sources said.

The seven patients, all aged between 6 months and eleven years, have been admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

A BSS report from Jamalpur said at least nine people have died from diarrhoea and over 200 attacked with the disease in Char Mannia under Islampur upazila.

The dead are Rabi Chan, 40, Sumay Bewa,

70, Musa Mondal, 40, Abdus Salam, 25, Madu, 50, Sabed Ali, 62, Rokeya, 3, Sabina, 8 and Sagar Ali, 60.

When contacted Civil Surgeon Dr Ansar Ali said a camp has been setup in the area and a medical team with sufficient medicine is working there.

The affected area is about 20 kms from Islampur upazila headquarters.

## Flash flood displaces 20,000 in Jessore

Affected people take shelter in educational institutions, high lands

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least 20,000 people have moved to safer places in Monirampur and Keshabpur upazilas in Jessore following downpour in the last five days and onrush of water from hills across the border.

The affected people have taken shelter in 18 schools, colleges and madrassahs and on high lands, according to official sources.

The surging water from Kobodak river has inundated 42 villages in Monirampur and another 12 in Keshabpur, where crisis of food and drinking water is prevailing, they

said.

Five metric tonnes of rice and twenty cartons of dates have so far been distributed among the affected people in the camps. An acute crisis of fodder is prevailing in the area.

The floodwater has damaged over 700 shops and paralysed life in the area.

According to agriculture and fisheries department sources, the flood has damaged aman crop on over 6000 acres of land and washed away shrimps from about 5000 acres and fishes from over 10,000 ponds in Monirampur upazila alone. The situation in Keshabpur upazila

is also similar.

Prices of essentials are skyrocketing and transport services on many routes have been suspended.

Jessore Deputy Commissioner Mahfuzur Rahman could not be contacted as he was visiting the affected areas with relief goods.

Twenty-eight academic institutions in areas have been closed sine die as those have been inundated.

Some sources said south-western districts may face a devastating flood this year as most of the rivers including Ichhamati and Sonai, flowing from India, are swelling.

## Cops suspended in Satkhira

## OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two constables of Satkhira Sadar thana were suspended on Sunday after an alleged thief fled from custody.

They are Hemayet Uddin and Ashraf Ali.

Police sources said one Selim, of Shaikh Para in Khulna city was caught while he was stealing a bicycle from in front of a local daily at Shahid Nazmul Sarani in Satkhira town. The mob beaten him and handed him over to police.

Police sent him to Satkhira hospital for treatment and deployed constables Hemayet Uddin and Ashraf Ali there to guard him.

But the thief fled away from the hospital at dead of night.

## One 'raped' by army man

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An army personnel allegedly raped a woman at Murarikati village under Kalaroa thana of Satkhira Friday night, according to a case filed with Kalaroa thana.

Mohammad Yasin raped the woman when she was alone at the house, said SI Shahidul Islam, who is investigating the case recorded on Saturday.

The alleged rapist is a neighbour of the victim. He is absconding since the incident, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

Believe it or not, the buildings do not stand on the bank of a water body. The lush green filed in front of the Bangabandhu University College in Gopalpur town turned into a sheet of water after Saturday's downpour. Waterlogging is caused due to unplanned drainage system and encroachments by land grabbers but the municipality is oblivious of the problem.

## 'Unite against India's river-linking plan'

## OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A call for a greater national unity against the Indian government's move to inter-link 37 rivers adversely affecting Bangladesh environment was made by the conscious citizens in Mymensingh town on Friday afternoon.

An open air mock parliamentary session titled "Open Air People's Parliament, Brahmaputra Session" was held on the bank of the Brahmaputra river in Shaheb Quarter Park area in the town.

The participants chanted slogans like Jago Bangladesh (Wake up Bangladesh), Jago Dakkhin Asia (Wake up South Asia) and Jago Biswa Bibek (Wake up World conscience).

Principal of Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam College Professor AKM Shamsul Islam was elected the Speaker of the session. Engineer Md. Helal Uddin Tabled a draft bill at the session as the director of Aagikar Bangladesh.

Advocate AHM Khalequzzaman, Professor Dr Ashrafuzzaman Selim, Advocate Emdadul Haque Millat, Dr Mirza Manjurul Haque, BA Rashid, Kamruzzaman Moni, Advocate Nazrul Islam Channu, Pradip Chakrabarti, Advocate Habibuzzaman Khorram, Abul

Hasim, Ferdous Ara Mahmuda urged for national unity against the Indian move.

Hundreds of people from all walks of lives joined the session.

## AL leader, another man killed in Netrakona

## OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Two persons were killed in separate incidents in the district on Thursday night.

Valiant freedom fighter Siddikur Rahman 47, of village Naljuri under Mohonganj upazila and a leader of Mohonganj upazila Awami League was killed by a group of miscreants.

Police recovered his floating body from Donu river at Threemohoni under Mohonganj upazila on Friday evening.

In another incident, Korom Ali, 42, of village Lapshia died when an engine boat knocked down his fishing boat near Lapshia bazaar under Khalajuri upazila.

## 'AL, BNP men harbour 124 listed terrorists in Chuadanga'

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Awami League and BNP godfathers are harbouring 124 "listed terrorists" in Chuadanga district, according to report of a government intelligence agency.

The report sent to higher authorities for action says 33 out of the 124 belong to the ruling party and nine belong to opposition Awami League. The rest 82 are "outlaws".

They are in possession of 61

illegal firearms including two sawn-off 303 rifles and a AK-47 rifle. Drug and arms trade, extortion and smuggling are their main sources of income.

The godfathers include a ward commissioner and three UP chairmen belonging to BNP, a Union Parishad (UP) chairman belonging to Awami League, and a former UP chairman belonging to Jatiyo Party (Ershad).

They protect the criminals for financial benefit, the report says.

## Attack on UNO's office in Patuakhali: 14 held

## A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Fourteen people including a woman were arrested by Sadar thana police on Sunday in connection with an incident of attack on the Sadar Upazila Nirbahi officer's office on October 2.

The arrested were identified as Monirul, 25, Imam, 30, Habib Hawlader, 32, Anwar, 32, Hossain Ali, 60, Shahidul Islam, 30, Abdul Mannan, 40, Aklima Begum, 35,

Ashraf Ali, 25, Anwar Hossain, 32, Masud, 25, Rahim Talekdar, 55, Ansur Rahman, 45, and Hamidul Alam Khan, 35.

A big procession was brought out on the day protesting postponement of Kalikapur Union Parishad (UP) election for the third time. The processionists attacked the UNO's office and broke the furniture.

Earlier, police arrested four persons.

## Police Commissioner vows crime-free Rajshahi city

## BSS, Rajshahi

Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Chowdhury Qamrul Ahsan said he will be able to make Rajshahi city "free of crime and other major anti-social activities".

Exchanging views with newsmen on Saturday at his office, he said he will make efforts to maintain law and order and also improve the traffic system. He joined as RMP Commissioner recently.

"Screening of vulgar and nasty films in cinemas and sex trade in residential hotels in the city must be

stopped," he noted.

Lauding the role of newsmen in making sound society, Chowdhury Ahsan said he always welcomed constructive criticism in the published news instead of negative ones. Constructive criticism can encourage the police activities, he observed.

He sought cooperation from all quarters including newsmen to improve law and order, stop drug trading and other anti-social activities in the city areas. Other RMP high officials were also present on the occasion.

## JCD-BCL clash leaves 5 hurt at Galachipa

## A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least five persons were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between JCD and BCL activists at Galachipa upazila Sadar on Friday night.

Galachipa thana police and locals told this correspondent that the clash was a sequel to harassment to a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist, Rasel, 20, on the collage road at noon by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists.

Seriously injured JCD activists Mannan, 25, and Bhasan, 20, were rushed to the upazila health complex.

Upazila AL secretary Golam Mostafa said to this correspondent that JCD activists attacked the local AL office and broke the glass windows and ransacked the office. They also set on fire the furniture of the office injuring a BCL activist, Sohag. A case was filed with Galachipa thana.

AL organised a protest meeting in the front of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office on Sunday. The meeting was presided over by upazila AL president Harun-or-Rashid.

## Satkhira Khetmajur Union formed

## OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A conference of Satkhira district unit of Khetmajur Union was held on Binerpota Primary School premises on Sunday.

Workers Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas was the chief guest with Ajit Kumar Mondal in the chair at the meet.

The conference formed a 23-member Satkhira district Khetmajur Union committee headed by Ajit Kumar Mondal and Uptal Mondal as its president and general secretary respectively.

It was addressed by among others advocate Mustafa Lutfullah, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Monotosh Mondal, Utpal Mondal and Bazur Rahman.



PHOTO: STAR

Man made flood... Land grabbers have made life miserable in many areas of Sylhet city as most of the outlets have been choked by unauthorised constructions. The photos were taken from Loharpara area after a downpour on Saturday.