

SNAPS

Trucks kill two in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two persons were killed by trucks Wednesday night and on Thursday.

Police said, one Siraj Uddin was fatally injured when a Rangpur-bound truck (Bogra-TA-4211) hit him on the Bogra-Rangpur highway at Chandihara under Bogra Sadar upazila Wednesday evening. He died at Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital at night. He was from Mokamtola village under Shibgonj upazila.

In another incident, bicyclist Shaiful Islam was knocked down by a truck at Charmatha near the town Thursday morning.

Workshop on refugee laws held in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A two-day training workshop of lawyers on refugee laws, organized by the Legal Education and Training Institute (LETI) of Bangladesh Bar Council, ended here yesterday.

Lawyers, human rights activists, representatives from Army, Air Force, BDR and police took part in the seminar, held at the Zila Parishad auditorium.

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice-president of Barrister Aminul Islam spoke as the chief guest at the inaugural session.

With Sylhet Bar Association President Abdul Hai Khan in the chair, the inaugural session was also addressed by among others, Assistant Attorney General Naima Haider.

Killing of BCL man Hartal observed at Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The daylong hartal, enforced by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), passed off peacefully in Rangpur on Thursday.

BCL called the hartal in protest against the killing of its activist Rashidul Islam Hitler allegedly by armed activists of Chhatra Shibir during daytime on Carmichael College campus on Wednesday last.

The victim's father lodged a case against eight Shibir activists but police are yet to arrest any of them, sources said.

BNP factions clash: 14 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 14 people were injured, five of them seriously, in a clash between two rival factions of BNP at Dewadanga village in Shalikhia upazila on Thursday.

Police and local people said two factions -- one led by Narim Shikder and the other by UP member Waliar Rahman--clashed over establishing supremacy in the area.

The five seriously injured persons have been admitted to Magura Sadar hospital. They are Jamal, 35, Rustan, 45, Yaseen, 30, Sayed, 30 and Jabbar 25

The groups used lethal weapons during the clash.

Twelve houses were also damaged as they went on the rampage, attacking each others' dwellings.

No case was lodged till filing of this report at about 2 pm yesterday.

3 get Journalist Shamsur Rahman Gold Medal

FARIDPUR, BSS

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf distributed Journalist Shamsur Rahman Gold Medal Award at a simple function at the Kabi Jasimuddin Hall here yesterday.

The award was introduced in 2001 by Bangladesh Journalists Association (BJA), Faridpur unit, after the name of late Shamsur Rahman, a Jessore-based reporter of The Daily Janakantha. Shamsur Rahman was killed by unidentified miscreants after his reports on outlaws were published.

Salima Begum, wife the late Shamsur Rahman was also present at the function as a special guest.

The minister handed over the gold medals to Prabir Sikdar of Janakantha for the year 2001, Jagadish Chandra Ghose of The Bangladesh Observer for 2002 and Munshi Haroon-ar-Rashid of The New Nation and UNB for 2003.

All the three recipients are Faridpur-based correspondents of their newspapers.

The minister also made a personal contribution of Tk 25,000 to Mrs Salima Begum.

Besides the minister, the function was also addressed by Deputy Commissioner Jalal Ahmed, Faridpur BNP President Alhaj Shahjada Mia and BJA Central Committee Secretary Kalayan Saha. BJA Faridpur unit president Munshi haroon-ar-Rashid presided.

Feuding teachers lose office to police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The teachers' association office here has finally gone under police control as the two rival factions fought over its possession.

Police, ordered by the Mayor, have taken control of the Shikhhok Bhaban which housed the regional office of Bangladesh Teachers Association after its two factions fought and staged a drama of capture and re-capture.

On October 12, a group of teachers belonging to the Awal-Bakar faction, locally led by Ashish Das Gupta and Jahangir Alam, occupied the building at Fakir Bari road after

ousting their rivals belonging to the Kamruzzaman faction.

The Kamruzzaman faction is led by Santosh Mukherjee and Siddikur Rahman here.

Leaders of the ousted faction later claimed that during the occupation, their rivals beat some of their colleagues, ransacked the office and looted Tk 50,000 of the teachers' welfare fund kept here.

On October 13, police ousted the Awal-Bakar group and took control of the building.

On October 15 morning, the Kamruzzaman group took control of the office from police.

The Awal-Bakar group then met

Mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP and told him that the office belonged to them as the Santosh-Siddik group (Kamruzzaman faction) was expelled from the association for corruption and irregularities.

The mayor ordered police to take control of the building by ousting both the factions and said possession of the office would be settled after examining papers.

At about noon on Wednesday, when the Kamaruzzaman faction was preparing for a press conference at the office to announce its possession, police drove them out. They left the building silently.

4 BCC staff suspended for false water supply bills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP has suspended four staff of Barisal City Corporation's water supply department for alleged collection of extra money from citizens by preparing false and inflated bills, BCC sources said.

They are bill clerk Shah Alam, Jahangir Kabir, Md. Shahin and Iqbal Hossain. Six others of the department have been transferred to other departments for same offences.

The actions were taken at a meeting of BCC officials on Tuesday.

The source said over 300 allegations have been made against the ten staff.

A three-member inquiry committee has been formed to probe the allegations.

Prof Ekramul's death RU Students place 11-point demand

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Geography and Environmental Studies department at Rajshahi University (RU) at a meeting on Thursday condoled the death of Prof Ekramul Haque.

Prof Haque, a former chairman of the department, was killed in a road accident in front of University on October 6.

After the condolence meeting, several hundred students of the department, joined by teachers and employees, held a rally and put forward a 11-point demand to the university authorities.

The demands include construction of a traffic island on the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in front of the university to check road accidents and naming of the departmental library after Prof Ekramul Haque.

Earlier, a Milad Mahfil was held at the department.

Toll collectors caught by people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

People caught two miscreants as they demanded toll from the owner of an under-construction house in the city on Tuesday.

The two-- Jasim Uddin alias Joishya and Ebadul Haqwere handed over to police after a mob beating.

Police said, the two had gone to the house owner at South Halishahar under Bondar thana, demanded Tk 50,000 and asked him to suspend the construction work till payment of toll.

Jasim was earlier accused in three criminal cases, police.

Meanwhile, Panchlaish police in a raid in Nazirpara area in the city arrested 'listed terrorist' Abu Bakar alias Kalu on Tuesday.

Intl' seminar begins at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day international workshop on exploratory data analysis, dedicated to the memory of Prof Khandkar Monwar Hossain, began at the Rajshahi University Senate Bhaban on Thursday.

RU Vice-chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki inaugurated the seminar, organised by the statistics department.

Prof AKM Azharul Islam, VC of International Islamic University, Chittagong and RU Pro VC KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondol were special guests at the inaugural session, presided over by statistics departmental chairman Prof Nurul Islam.

Some 25 teachers and researchers from India, China and Japan along with those from Jahangirnagar University and Chittagong University are participating in the seminar.

Forty-seven research papers under seven categories would be presented at the seminar.

Urs of Garib Shah today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The holy Urs of great saint Hazrat Garib Shah will be held here today.

A befitting programme has been chalked out at his 'mazar' at Nahata village in Sreepur upazila. The programme include religious discussion, feeding of destitutes and milad mahfil.

Every year the Urs of the great saint of the Indo-Bangla-Pak sub-continent is being held on the third day of the Bangla month of Kartik where thousands of people from all around take part.

Female students insecure at CU!

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN RIAD, Ctg

Female students of Chittagong University (CU) are feeling insecure on the campus because of incidents of mugging and assault by outsiders.

The authorities are not taking adequate security measures, some students alleged while talking to this correspondent.

A few days back, local people kidnapped a female student of Islamic History department from Nikunja area behind the arts faculty building. She went there to see the scenic beauty with a male student Nayonof Philosophy department.

Suddenly, a gang attacked them with darp weapons while they were returning at around 6pm.

Injured Nayon returned and informed his friends at Shaheed Abdur Rab hall, a short distance from the spot.

After about two hours' search, the students rescued the girl from a

hilly area two kilometers away from the campus.

Police and the university authorities were informed immediately after the incident, but they did nothing to rescue the girl, they alleged.

After the incident, female students of Shamsunnahar Hall and Pritilata Hall took out processions on the campus and submitted memoranda to the vice-chancellor to ensure security on the campus.

In August, some female students of Geography Department were assaulted by locals when they were returning to their dormitories at about 9 pm after watching the Mars through telescope at the botanical garden.

Some of the victims alleged that the university authorities did not take any security measures for female students during the programme, organised by the department.

At dormitories also, they always remain scared as snakes often

enter those. Tandra, a second year student, was recently bitten by a snake on the ground floor at Shamsunnahar Hall.

"Very often snakes enter female dormitories, creating panic among students. We appealed to the authorities to spray Carbolic Acid in certain areas as a protection against snakes but to no effect", Shirin, a student at Pritilata Hall.

Added to these, female students are very often mugged on the campus. Such incidents increased in the last few months. Round Pond, Nikunja, Forestry and Marine Science Institute areas are vulnerable areas on the campus.

They said they failed to draw the authorities' attention even after repeated complaints.

When contacted, an assistant proctor preferring anonymity said, "We are trying utmost to look after our students on the campus but lack of manpower is one of the major impediments".

Memorial for a hero of Liberation War

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A Tk six lakh project has been undertaken by the local Zila Parishad for construction of a gate in memory of Shaheed Capt Bashar, a martyred liberation war hero.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon MP, in charge of Nilphamari district on Monday approved the project of the memorial gate at a meeting of the district law and order coordination committee held at Syedpur Upazila Parishad hall.

The state minister promised more fund and gave his valuable suggestions for beautification and longevity of the memorial gate.

'Shaheed Capt Bashar Gate' will be constructed at the entrance point of the district town in front of Moshir Rahman College on the Syedpur-Nilphamari highway.

Milan announced the plan for construction of the gate during an independence day reception accorded to the martyr's octogenarian mother Shaheed Janani Rizia Ahmed on March 26 this year.

While addressing the reception organised by the district Muktijoddha Sangsad at its office as the chief guest he declared that 'it is



Shaheed Capt Bashar

our sacred duty to bring smiles in faces of Shaheed families.'

The martyr's illustrated father late Asir Uddin Ahmed was a noted headmaster of Nilphamari High English School (now Government Boys' High School).

Prominent personalities of political and business arena including muktijoddha sangsad commander hailed the move. Among them, names of octogenarian Awami League leader and former MNA during the liberation war Afsar Ali Ahmed, president of Nilphamari Chamber of Commerce and Industries Shohel Parvez and the district Muktijoddha Sangsad commander Shamsul Islam Zoba are worth mentioning.



PHOTO: STAR

Katakhal canal was dug through Sirajganj town during British period to keep it pollution-free. But due to lack of maintenance it is now a breeding ground for mosquitoes and germs and is polluting the town. The canal was once connected with the mighty Jamuna, making the town a flourishing business centre. But it is virtually dead now as unscrupulous people have grabbed a major portion of the canal. The picture shows a virtually dried up water body near the Muktijoddha Lane (left) filled with water hyacinth and waste being dumped in the canal in Barabazar area (right). But who cares?

Diarrhoea claims one more in Nilphamari

State minister visits one and a half months after outbreak, rebukes Civil Surgeon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

State Minister for Education and Minister-in-Charge for Nilphamari ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon has expressed his dissatisfaction over handling of the diarrhoea situation by the district health officials.

The angry state minister at a meeting asked Civil Surgeon a volley of questions.

"Why diarrhoea patients are given treatment on roads? Why such photographs are published in newspapers? Is there no space in big hospitals in the district for better accommodation of diarrhoea patients?"

"There is scarcity of Saline, why this information was not brought to me before?"

These were some of the ques-

tions hurled at the civil surgeon at the district law and order coordination committee meeting, held at Sayedpur Upazila Parishad auditorium on Tuesday night, sources said.

The state minister came to Nilphamari on Tuesday, about one and a half months after diarrhoea broke out in the district. He directed all government officials in the district to combat the disease.

The Daily Star published a good number of photos including one showing a diarrhoea patient being treated on road in front of a government hospital as there was no space inside.

Mentionably, most of the deaths from diarrhoea took place in about 15 days in September when there was scarcity of cholera Saline in

hospitals here.

The situation is by and large unchanged now.

According to district health department control room yesterday, another child died in 48 hours till Friday noon.

The victim is Tasmira, 4, daughter of Ilias Hossen of Botlagari village under Saidpur upazila. She died at Saidpur 50-bed hospital.

The control room said more 153 patients were admitted and 352 treated at the six government hospitals and temporary treatment camps in the district during the period.

The Civil Surgeon, however, claimed that the situation was under control.

This govt will have to step down next year, says Inu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Huq Inu has said, "Khaleda Zia will have no way but to step down next year in the face of a mass movement".

A strong movement will be launched to oust the alliance government for its failure to run the country, he said

addressing a rally at Shegunbagicha in Magura town on Thursday.

Inu said country's sovereignty is now at stake due to international conspiracies, which has been proved by the Bogra ammunition haul.

The economy is being ruined as big powers have imposed so-called free market economy in the name of globalisation.

Inu demanded formation of a 'national government to free the country and its people from misuse of the four-party alliance government.

With ATM Mohabbat Hossain in

the chair, the rally was addressed by, among others, Sayed Zafar Sazzad and Shirin Akter.

JSD chief alleged that the ruling party has politicised the administration and is harbouring criminals.

Law and order is deteriorating and religious fanaticism has divided the nation. "This is dangerous for the country", Inu said.

Earlier, local JSD activists formed a human chain on MR Road in the town demanding formation of national government.

Arms recovered in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered three firearms and some ammunition from the house of Abu Naser alias Siddiq, 'second-in-command' of infamous Emdad Bahini in Boalkhal Tuesday night.

The arms were recovered as per the confession of Abu Naser, now on remand, police said.

The arms recovered from his Madhyam Syednagar house are one single barrel gun, one LG, one pipe gun and three cartridges, police said.



PHOTO: ISPR

Commodore Commanding Khulna, Commodore MAK Azad is seen, among others, with the winners of the Annual Handball Championship of the Bangladesh Navy. The five-day meet concluded at BNS Titumir in Khulna on Thursday.