

SNAPS

Life for 2 rapists

A RU CORRESPONDENT
A court here on Saturday sentenced two persons to life term imprisonment for raping a schoolgirl in Fatiyapur under Bagha thana on August 11, 1997.

The convicted persons are Joli Asraf, 26, son of Rahim Uddin and Arif Khan, 23, son of Baktiyar Khan. Tribunal Judge of the Court for Prevention of Woman and Child Repression Nurun Nahar announced the judgement.

AL activist killed by rivals in party

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
An Awami League activist was killed allegedly by rivals in the party at Laukanthi village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila yesterday.

Hasan Ali, 60, was hacked near his house in the village, about three kilometres from Patuakhali town. He died on the spot.

Local people claimed that he was killed allegedly by men of Hasan Biswas, another AL activist in the village in a sequel to rivalry in the party. Police visited the spot and arrested three persons for questioning.

RU teachers, students

donate blood

A RU CORRESPONDENT
Several hundred students, teachers and officials of Rajshahi University donated blood at a programme organised on the campus on Saturday.

Swajan, a student's body, organised the programme in the Central Library area.

Student Advisor Prof Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the program as chief guest.

Rajshahi Medical College Hospital Director Brig Abul Kalam Azad, Rajshahi Medical College Principal Prof Fazlur Rahman, Prof. Jafar Ali, Prof Ahsan Uddin, Prof Aslam Hossain, Prof Habibur Rahman and Prof Mahmudur Rahman were present, among others.

Earlier, Swajan brought out a procession on the campus to create awareness for blood donation to help patients.

Diarrhoea claims nine more in 3 dists

Over 500 attacked in Lalmonirhat, 229 in Gopalganj and 60 in Gaibandha

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Diarrhoea claimed nine more lives in Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Gopalganj districts in the last four days.

In Lalmonirhat, the situation deteriorated in Aditmari and Patgram upazilas with over 500 people attacked with the disease in one week, local people claimed.

Over 200 people have been attacked in Gopalganj and another 60 in Gaibandha.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reported yesterday that one Ayesha, 50 and her daughter Shapla, 10, died at their house at Beltail village on Sunday. Thirteen year-old Sharifa Khatun died at Shaghata Health Complex on the same day.

At least 60 people have been attacked with the disease in the upazila in the last four days, official sources and local people said. The disease is spreading.

Local people complained that health workers rarely visit the affected areas as they can not provide with oral saline and water purifying tablets.

Life saving drugs including I V saline have become scarce in local markets, local people said.

A Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that

Hamidul Islam, 4 and Khadija begum, 2, son and daughter of Mokajul Hossain of Deodoba village in Aditmari upazila, died of diarrhoea on Friday. The disease killed three year-old Feroj Mia, son of Aminul Islam of Khodapara village, on the previous day.

Diarrhoea has spread to at least 40 villages in Aditmari upazila, where at least 200 people have been attacked.

During a visit to the affected areas on Sunday, Mokajul Hossain told this correspondent that he took his son and daughter to Aditmari

health complex but health officials there released them before they were cured. The two died at home, he lamented.

He said scores of diarrhoea patients are at their home without treatment in Deobhog, Mohishkhacha, Baragharia, Shaptibari, Khatapara, Bhadai, Madanpur and nearby villages in the upazila.

Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr. Saiful Islam was not available at the hospital.

A doctor there admitted that saline and other medicine were in short supply.

In Patgram, at least 200 people are suffering from the disease, local people told this correspondent during the visit. The disease killed eight people in different villages in the upazila in last two weeks.

Our Gopalganj correspondent reported that two lives and attacked more 229 in Gopalganj district in last

seven days.

According to hospital sources the victims are one year-old Anik, son of Bablu Sheikh of Madhupur village under Gopalganj Sadar and Jafsar Singha, 55, of the Sadar area died from diarrhoea in the last three says.

Another 229 people have been attacked and the disease is spreading.

Scarcity of drinking water, saline and other drugs are prevailing in the affected areas.

When contacted, Ashima Barai, Senior Staff Nurse at Gopalganj Sadar Hospital however claimed that there was enough stock of saline and medicines at the hospital. Ashraf Chowdhury of Manikdah under Gopalganj Sadar, whose son is under treatment at the Sadar Hospital told The Daily Star in presence of the nurse that he bought medicine from market as the hospital authorities did not supply it.

2 killed , 6 hurt in road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two persons were killed and six others injured when a Dhaka-bound coach collided with a truck on the Magura-Dhaka highway at Kalinagar in the Sadar upazila Sunday night.

One of the dead has been identified as Derajatullah Sheikh, 50, of Kulbaria village in Chulknagar. The identity of the other could not be known immediately.

The injured have been admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital. they are Nesar Sarder, 45, Taleb 40, Al-Mamun, 35, Masuma Khatun, 35, Selina, 18 and Lutfar, 35.

Police seized both the vehicles but the drivers managed to flee.

10 hurt as AL factions clash in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two groups of Awami League activists in Kolaroa on Sunday.

One of the groups is loyal to former lawmaker and district AL president Nazrul Islam and the other group is led by Kolaroa thana AL convenor Moznu Chowdhury.

The clash erupted as both the groups tried to take control of an AL office in the area.

The injured include Siddique, Asad , Kawser and Ashraf Ali. Kawser was injured critically and was admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

Police dispersed the unruly AL activists and took control of the area. A tense situation is prevailing.

On Friday, a union level council of local AL was marred due to a clash between the two groups.

Both the groups filed separate cases with Kolaroa thana following Friday's incident.

Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College

Students to continue strike till demands met

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The students' strike at Barisal Shere Bangla Medical College entered the second day yesterday, with no sign of resolution of the crisis.

The Sharbodolio Chhatra Oikkaya (all party students unity) called the strike to press its six point demand. Activists of the organisation also locked all classrooms on Sunday.

The demands included ensuring safety of students and teachers on the campus, construction of sur-

rounding walls and other security measures, prevention of illegal trespass by outsiders, setting up of a permanent and effective police camp on the campus and recruitment of more teachers.

The principal of the medical college held talks with leaders of the Chhatra Oikkaya yesterday but they declined to call off the strike unless the demands are met, sources said.

The striking students said the decision was taken at a meeting on the campus on Saturday night.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mustafa Ali, general secretary of SBMCH Students Union, controlled by JCD and ICS, said he supports the demands.

On Sunday, the principal urged the students to call of the strike, assuring them that he would try to meet their demands.

The striking students said the authorities gave such assurances many times earlier but did not fulfil their demands. This time the strike will continue till the demands are not met, they said.

Workers' strike enters 5th day

400 vessels stranded at Ashuganj ghat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 400 cargo vessels are stranded at Ashuganj ghat in the Meghna as workers have stopped loading and unloading.

Their indefinite strike, called by the Ashuganj unit of Bangladesh Nawjan Samik Faderation, entered the fifth day

yesterday.

They are protesting arrest of eight workers on Tuesday last on charge of pilferage of stone from vessels.

They were arrested by Ashuganj police following a complaint by some vessel owners.

There has been no move yet either by the local administration or

by the vessel owners to resolve the crisis, sources said.

Ashuganj is an important terminal on the Meghna at Bhairab Bazar, a big business centre in the area. The area is famous for stone and rice trading. There are hundreds of rice mills in the area. Hundreds of vessels carry stone and rice.

AL procession against price hike

Gaibandha Chamber for action against dishonest traders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Awami League and its front organisations brought out a procession in the district town on Saturday protesting price hike of essentials.

The processionists paraded the main roads in the town and later held a meeting in front of the AL office where speakers blamed the BNP government for its failure to control prices.

Meanwhile, leaders of Gaibandha Chamber of Commerce at a meeting with traders' representatives at its office urged them to keep the price level within the reach of the commonman during the holy month of Ramadan.

The meeting was attended by, among others, ADC (Gen) and administrator of the chamber Abedur Rahman, its former president Shajada Anowerul Kadir and secretary Abdul Mannn Mollah, Shop Owners Association President Waheduzzamn Khan Titu, former pourashava chairman Abdul Latif Hakkani, Bijon Kumar, Haji Mozammel Huq and Paresh Shaha.

The meeting formed a 15-member committee headed by Waheduzzaman Khan to monitor the price level.

The meeting decided that action would be taken against dishonest traders for creating artificial crisis and adulteration.

Attack on Sirajganj AL office by JCD: 2 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders were injured and the Awami League (AL) office at Shahid Shuhrawardy Sarak was ransacked allegedly by the ruling party backed JCD activists on Sunday night.

AL leaders alleged that a gang of JCD activists attacked their party office in presence of leaders and activists at about 8 at night. The attackers forcibly entered and ransacked the office, broke furniture and beat up two BCL leaders--Saidur Rahman and Shipon.

Both the injured were admitted to a local clinic.

AL leader and former member of parliament (MP) Abdul Latif Mirza protested the attack.

7 cops suspended for negligence in duty

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Seven police personnel including a Habilder have been suspended in Kushtia and Thakurgaon for negligence in duty.

Our Kushtia correspondent reported that four policemen including Habilder Fakar Uddin were suspended yesterday. The rest are constables Delwar Hossain, Shamsul Huda and Tanzinur Rahman.

They were on duty at Kushtia General Hospital where alleged outlaw Yeanimn, accused in a murder case, was being treated under police custody.

Yeanim was caught by people on October 21 at Harinarayanpur Bazar in the Sadar upazila and handed over to police after beating. But he escaped from the hospital.

ABSS report from Thakurgaon said three constables of Ruhea police camp were suspended for negligence in duty during a dacoity in the area under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

The suspended constables are Nazrul Islam, Farid and Rahman, police said.

The dacoity was committed on Wednesday last near the police camp.

Roundtable at Nilphamari told

'Participation of civil society needed for poverty alleviation'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Participation of the members of civil society is a prerequisite for poverty alleviation.

This was disclosed at a roundtable meeting titled 'Role of Civil Society to Improve the Quality of Life of the Ultra Poor' held under the aegis of the Advocacy Department of the BRAC. The Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) organised it at the local RDRS auditorium on Saturday.

BRAC Director Afsan Chowdhury who was present as the chief guest informed the participants that BRAC had undertaken a pilot project named Challenging the Frontier of Poverty Reduction: Targeting the Ultra Poor (CFPRTUP) on experimental basis to improve the socio-economic condition of the ultra poor women of the society from January, 2002. Only the ultra poor women and distressed women of the society are selected through a special procedure. At the initial stage the pilot project is being implemented in three districts Rangpur Nilphamari and Kurigram including 6,000 ultra poor families. The first year of the project work has been completed recently.

BCDJC Director Samar Roy conducted the entire programme

while Regional Coordinator and Journalist Aminul Huq placed an annual report to evaluate the progress of CFPRTUP on completion of its one year.

Thirty two representatives of different professional groups, businessmen, public representatives, government officials, NGO representatives, representatives of woman rights groups, political leaders including 12 journalists of the print and electronics media took part.

Afsan Chowdhury further disclosed that this year it has been expanded to four more districts Netrakona, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Kishoregonj. Ultimately 70,000 ultra poor families will be brought under the project within 2006, he said.

Under the programme, ultra poor women are trained for rearing chickens, cows, goats, vegetable cultivation, creating nursery, management of small business and preparation of shoes and sanitary napkins.

Besides, women will be made aware of their social responsibility and health rules.

BRAC director also told the meeting that village assistance committee has been formed comprising members of the civil society of villages for achievement of the goal of the project. The committee will solve problems of local ultra poor people under the project.

When asked by the local dignitar-

ies, the BRAC director explained them the definition of ultra poor and civil society members of villages. They also questioned him about the utility of the project and suggested for its expansion.

The meeting was told that besides helping the ultra poor economically, all-out measures should be taken to strengthen them mentally, socially and culturally, otherwise no programme would be successful for their welfare.

At the beginning of the round table conference a documentary film was shown.

5 get 17 years' RI

for keeping illegal arms

BSS, Feni

Five persons have been sentenced to 17-year rigorous imprisonment here by a special tribunal for possessing illegal firearms.

Judge Mohammad Motahir Ali handed down the punishment on Sunday to Mahfuzul Haque alias Tiger, Gias Uddin Shimul, Shourav Hossain Kafil, Sarwar Jahan and Mohammad Manik.

Police arrested them from Kazirhat under Sonagazi upazila on December 5, 2000.