

SNAPS

Blood donation

BSS, Barisal
A blood donation programme was held at Falpatty in the city on Friday on the occasion of Kali Puja.

The Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Unit of Sandhany, a voluntary blood donation organization, arranged the programme.

A total of 31 persons donated blood for patients.

RU students protest felling of trees

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Samajtantic Chhatra Front (SCF) at Rajshahi University on Saturday protested the university authority's decision to fell trees on the campus to construct a tower in front of the administrative building.

Activists of the organisations held separate rallies, brought out processions on the campus protesting the decision and handed over memorandums to Students Advisor Prof Rafiqul Islam.

JP leader removed

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj
Jatiya Party (Ershad) central joint organising secretary Nurul Amin Khan has been removed from Manikganj district convening committee of Bangladesh Muktiyodha Sangsad for alleged misappropriation of funds.

He was member-secretary of the convening committee.

When contact Nurul Amin Khan said the allegations against him are false. He has been removed with a political motive.

Students' agitation

BM College hostel super, asst super resign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The superintendent and the assistant superintendent of Flight Sergeant Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall of Government BM College have resigned.

Abul Kalam Azad and Bellal Hossain submitted their resignation to principal Prof Nurul Anwar on Wednesday, it was learnt here yesterday.

Resident students of the hall were demanding their resignation for their alleged involvement in corruption and misbehavior with students.

The students ransacked the office of the hall superintendent Tuesday night. Earlier, the college authorities formed a three members committee headed by Prof Yousuf Ali, Chairman of Physics department, to prove the allegations.

But the protesting students rejected the authorities step and created pressure for their immediate resignation.

Robbery spree in Khulna during joint operation

Dacoity pose as joint force members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Forty-three incidents of robbery took place in 12 days in Khulna including the city amid the ongoing anti-crime operation by joint forces.

In most of the incidents, robbers posed as members of joint forces, police said.

The crime spree has throwing a challenge to law enforcers as none of the robbers could be arrested.

Seven persons were injured in attacks by robbers during this period.

The most sensational incident took place on the night of October 11

when organised gangs committed dacoities in seven houses at Boyra under Sonadanga thana. They looted gold, money and valuables.

On October 21, dacoits looted at arms point gold, money and valuables worth over one lakh taka from another house in Naihati union under Rupsha thana. On October 24 dacoits made good their escape with looted money and gold from three houses in Chakundia village in Dumuria thana. On the same night, the same gang committed another dacoity in Nurania village also in Dumuria thana. Seven dacoities were committed

on the night of October 23 in Rammajhi Village in Terokhedha thana. Dacoits looted gold ornaments, money and valuables worth over Tk two lakh.

On the night of October 24 armed dacoits looted at arms point cloths worth Tk 3 lakh from a shop at Chuknagar bazaar in Dumuria Thana.

Such incidents are taking place every night, and more than one house is looted in one incident, which proves the gangs are well organised, police sources said.

On October 29, five dacoities were committed in Shugandhi village under

Digholia upazila.

Bombs and firearms are used in dacoities and inmates are given death threats not to inform police, police said.

When asked, Khulna Police Superintendent Habibur Rahman said steps have been taken to check such incidents. Block raids will be intensified to nab the dacoits, he said.

Another senior KMP official declined to admit that dacoities have become rampant in Khulna city.

Kadianis face trouble in Kushtia village

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Kadiani families who fled homes in remote Uttarbahaniapur village on October 24 and were living in Kushtia town secretly are returning homes following meetings between the district administration and local leaders.

Kushtia Police Superintendent Abul Salam visited Uttarbahaniapur on Friday and Saturday and held talks with the section of local people led by some Imams of mosques.

The fundamentalists held rallies in the area on Friday and Saturday demanding that Kadianis be declared non-Muslims.

Thirty members of six Kadiani families had fled homes following persecution by fundamentalists led by the Imams and madrasah students.

"Two families returned home on Saturday and the rest will return today", Md Abdur Rahman, a leader of the Kadiani community told this correspondent in Kushtia town yesterday.

There are 14 Kadiani families in the village, who were virtually confined at homes in inhuman conditions.

The fundamentalists in the village threatened to kill all Kadianis "if they are not converted to Islam", he said. Many Kadianis have been forced to

sign bonds, promising that they would embrace Islam, he said.

Rahman said Kadianis there are socially boycotted by a section of fundamentalists led by one Abdur Razzak, an Imam of a local mosque as per a decision taken on Friday at a meeting held at Dhrampur bazaar.

The meeting was presided over by Dhrampur union BNP president, he claimed.

People of the area have also been told to sever all connection with Kadianis. A section of local BNP men are supporting the fundamentalists, he said.

Notorious outlaw Dipu held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Kushtia police arrested Dipu, a ring-leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) from in front of Kushtia district jail Wednesday night.

Dipu is the nephew of notorious outlaw Nuruzzaman Laltu.

Dipu was an accused in four murder cases filed with Alamdanga police, Chuadanga police said.

Police said Dipu came to Kushtia to meet his uncle Laltu, detained in Kushtia jail.

Dipu is now in charge of Laltu's arms depot, police claimed.

He is being interrogated by a team from Kushtia and Chuadanga police.

Abducted bride rescued in 3 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police rescued a newly married bride within three hours of her abduction on the marriage night.

Police also arrested one of the abductors.

Suma Akter Ranju was married to Israfil on Friday night. The marriage ceremony took place at the house of her elder sister Baby Begum at Kawnia in the city.

Suma's brother in a case lodged with the Kotwali thana said seven armed youths led by Mintu abducted his newly married sister from the house of Baby

Friday night. The other accused are Soheli, Faisal, Hira, Sabuj, Rana and Mamun.

Police was informed immediately. Mayor Mujibur Rahman Sarwar MP also intervened.

Police rescued Suma from the house of one Lambu Khokan, brother-in-law of Mintu in the city within three hours.

Police arrested Rana, an associate of Mintu from the house. Others managed to flee.

Sources claimed that Mintu, a local hoodlum, had proposed to marry Suma but she and her guardians refused it.

Bomb blast

2 Jubo Dal activists arrested in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police on Saturday arrested two activists of Jubo Dal suspecting their involvement in bomb attack on a posh residential hotel in the city.

They are Tareq and Noor-e-Alam. According to eye witnesses, two powerful bombs were thrown at the newly constructed residential hotel 'Millenium' at Majid Sarani at about midnight Friday night. Window glasses of the hotel were damaged.

The bomb blasts, which rocked the entire Sonadanga residential area, created panic among inmates of the hotel.

Owner of the hotel Sharifuzzaman was not there when the incident took place.

Police rushed to the spot soon after the bomb blasts.

Sources said the bomb was hurled at the hotel owner refuse to pay toll to the Jubo Dal activists.

Three get 3 yrs RI for attacking Jamaat Amir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three persons have been sentenced to three years' RI for attacking city Amir of Jamat-e-Islami and member-secretary of the district Four Party Alliance Hafij Abdul Hai Harun.

The convicts are Majharul Islam Suman, Kabirul Islam Ujjal and Pangash alias Renu.

The verdict was delivered in by a Magistrate of the Speedy Trial Court, Sylhet on Saturday. All the accused are absconding.

The three were gossiping near the house of Hafij Harun in Peer Mohalla area in the city in the evening of August 30. They were

known for snatching, extortion and other crimes in the area for long.

As Harun asked them not create disturbance in the area, they chased him to his house and left the area.

But after some time, the group armed with firearms returned and attacked Harun's house. They also fired several gunshots to create a panic in the area.

The hoodlums threatened Harun of dire consequences if any case is filed.

Harun filed a case with the Kotwali police.

The three also wanted in several cases, police said.

12 more die of diarrhoea in B'baria, Sherpur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Twelve people died of diarrhoea and over 250 have been attacked with the disease in Brahmanbaria and Sherpur districts in the last five days.

The disease has spread to four upazilas in Brahmanbaria and 13 villages in one upazila in Sherpur.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reported that the disease killed five people including two children and attacked 200 in several villages in Nasirnagar, Sarail, Ashugonj and Brahmanbaria Sadar upazilas.

The five died in Chaportola union where at least 50 are afflicted with diarrhoea.

Chapartala union Chapartola Union Parishad Chairman Musharof Hassain told the monthly meeting of Nasirnagar Upazila Council on Thursday that the five died due to lack of medicine. Diarrhoea is spreading in the area and will turn alarming if adequate steps are not taken immediately, he said.

When contacted the Medical Officer at Nasirnagar Upazila Health Complex declined to confirm the deaths. He said a medical team has been sent to the

area. Civil Surgeon Muhammad Ishak said he will visit the spot and take proper step for supply of adequate medicine and saline.

The number of diarrhoea patient are increasing in hospitals and local clinics as the disease is spreading.

According to hospital sources, 144 diarrhoea patients were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital from October 14 to October 31.

Many patients in the hospital alleged that they were not given intravenous (IV) saline from the hospital and were forced to purchase those from outside at high price.

Hospital sources said supply of oral saline was adequate but IV saline was in short supply.

A nurse in the diarrhoea ward said she received only eight bags of IV saline for her shift. These were too inadequate, she said.

During a visit to the diarrhoea ward on Saturday, this correspondent saw ten patients on five beds and another 27 on the floor and the corridor.

The floor was dirty with vomit and stool of patients.

It was gathered that at least 100 diarrhoea patients left the hospital from October 14 to 31 without treatment due to lack of proper medical facilities.

It is reported that in some villages, people are turning to 'Uza' and 'Kabiraz' (exorcist) to protect them from diarrhoea.

A correspondent reported from Sherpur that diarrhoea claimed seven lives in three upazilas.

Four of them died at Akuchupara village in Dhanshal union under Jhenigathi upazila on Thursday.

They are Ambia, 36, wife of Abul Hossain, Nahar, 9, Anjuara, 7 and Tazemddin, 55. At least 50 people have been attacked with the disease, sources there said.

Three others died in Nokla. They are Durga Rani Das, 22, Sohagi, 3 and Riktara Begum, 25.

Nine patients were admitted to Sherpur Sadar Hospital. Every day eight to nine patients are coming to Nakla upazila health complex for treatment, sources there said.

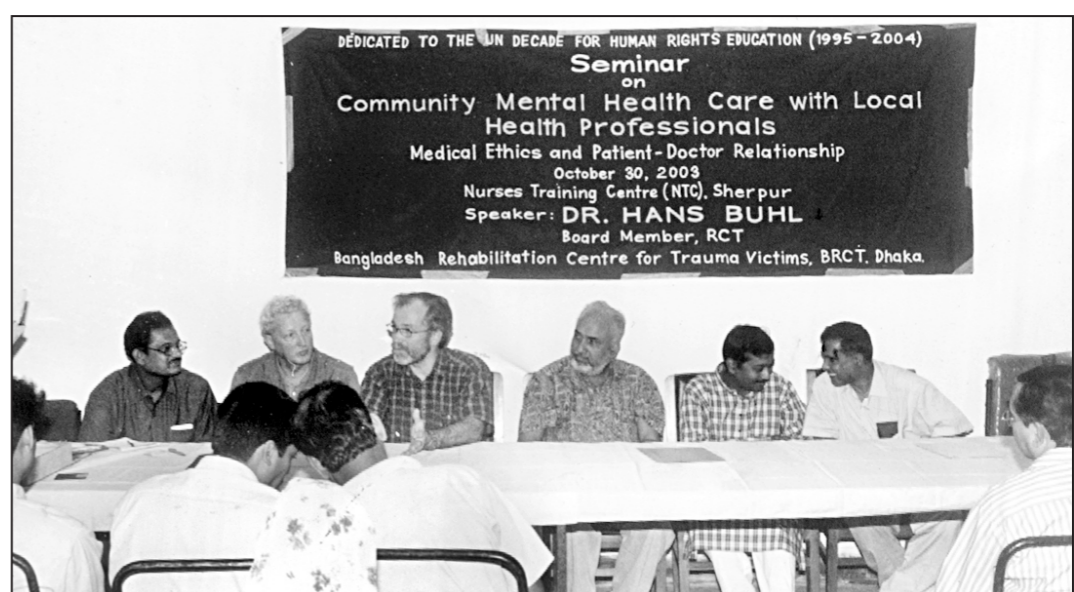


PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims organised a seminar on Community Mental Health Care with local health officials at Sherpur Nurse Training Centre. The participants included Hans Bhul, Board Member of RCT; Jorgen Nystrup, Consultant Chairman of RCT Board of Directors; the Deputy Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon of Sherpur. The seminar discussed patients rights and doctor-patient relation.

2 pirates injured in gunfight, caught

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two pirates including the chief of Tiger Bahini, a notorious gang, were bullet-hit in a gunfight with a rival gang on the Arpangashia river in the Sundarbans on Thursday.

Local people caught and handed them over to police.

They are Tiger Bahini chief Rajaul Islam of Datnekhali village and Ranjit of Kulturali village in Shyamnagar upazila.

They were admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital under police custody.

Quoting local people police said a fierce gun fight took place between Kalu Bhaini and Tiger Bahini over toll collection from fishermen.

Accomplices of injured Rajaul and Ranjit took them to a house at Datiekhali village on way to hospital. Local people caught and handed them over to police. Others managed to flee.

Five face corruption cases in Feni, Rajshahi

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Five persons were sued by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) in Rajshahi and Feni recently.

BSS from Rajshahi reports: The District Anti-corruption Bureau recently filed a corruption case against a teacher and two officials of Rajshahi University with Matihar police.

The accused are Ruksana Begum, Assistant Professor of Accounting Department, Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Registrar (Administration) and Lutfor Rahman, Deputy Registrar (Pay) of the university.

According to official sources, the teacher in collaboration with the two officials drew Tk 2.35 lakh illegally in the name of monthly payment show-

ing forged documents and misappropriated the entire money during the period from April 2, 1998 to August 2, 2003.

The BAC examined all the relevant documents and found the irregularities. The District Anti-Corruption Officer Monirul Haque lodged the case as its plaintiff.

Our Feni Correspondent reports: A corruption case was filed against two fake doctors here.

The district BAC on Sunday night filed the cases against two fake MBBS doctors named Joyal Abedin and Mahmudul Hasan.

The are also members of the Feni unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), according to BAC sources.



PHOTO: STAR

JESH Foundation and Academy for Educational Development (AED), two local NGOs, organised an open discussion with journalists on 'torture on women and trafficking' at Satkhira on Friday.



PHOTO: STAR

Construction of the Tk 28 crore bridge on the Brahmaputra river began in 1998. The work was scheduled to be completed last year, but has been suspended for want of funds. Authorities say the cost has already increased by at least 20 per cent. None can say when the work will be completed.