

SNAPS

'Raas Mela' from today

BSS, *Khulna*

A four-day 'Raas Mela', a religious fair of the Hindu community, will begin at Dublar Char here today (Wednesday).

The century-old fair begins on the last full-moon night of Bangla month of Karitik every year.

Hindu devotees from far flung areas come to Dublar Char and perform puja of goddess Neel Kamal and Ganga and take holy bath in the sea.

Standing in seawater and facing the rising sun they offer prayers seeking pardon from all sins. Chickens, ducks and goats are sacrificed at the altar of Goddess for fulfillment of wishes made by individuals.

Monga-stricken aborigines want TR rice

BSS, *Thakurgaon*

About 500 aborigines staged a sit-in demonstration in front of Rahimanpur union parishad (UP) office under Sadar upazila on Saturday.

The Monga-stricken aborigines were demanding Test Relief (TR) rice to combat the prevailing food crisis.

They staged the demonstration under the banner of Jatiya Abibashi Parishad. While demonstrating they protested the malpractice in weighing VGF rice.

After the sit-in they brought out a procession and held a meeting on the UP office premises.

2 'outlaws' held for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Police arrested two alleged outlaws from Kharati village in Assasumi upazila Sunday night in connection with a murder at a village in Tala upazila.

They are Asadul and Rashedul of village Kharati, both alleged activist of Purbo Bangla Communist Party (PBCP)

Fazlur Rahman was shot dead on October 25 at Khesra village in Tala upazila.

Rajshahi Bar threatens to boycott CMM court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

The Rajshahi Bar Association on Monday gave Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abul Hossain an ultimatum to withdraw himself from Rajshahi within 30 days or to face boycott of his court by lawyers.

The ultimatum followed the CMM's alleged "misbehaviour" with some lawyers including bar association general secretary Mohammad Yahea over the latter's appeal for release of photojournalist Selim Zahangir.

Yahea told reporters that the CMM

talked with him "rudely" and did not allow him to sit when he along with a number of lawyers and senior journalists went to his chamber and requested for putting up Selim's case to his court.

"He (CMM) outright rejected our prayer, saying journalists did excess in newspapers over the incident and so the case could not be put up to court within seven days", Yaheasaid.

Meanwhile, journalists here continued their movement and formed a long human chain on the court premises for release of Selim.

On Sunday night, journalists at a meeting at the Metropolitan Press

Club formed a steering committee headed by Shah Anisur Rahman for release of Selim and and put forward a ten-point demand.

The demands include release of Selim and withdrawal of the case against him, judicial investigation into the incident, removal of Magistrate Abdul Majid, Assistant Commissioner of Police Wazed Ali and Boalia thana OCAslam Iqbal from Rajshahi.

Selim, photojournalist of the Janakantha and organising secretary of Bangladesh Photojournalist Association, was arrested on Saturday afternoon while he was on duty.

Fun turns into tragedy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

A children's wrestling competition turned into a clash between elders, leaving 35 people injured at Bupdah villagers in Magura Sadar upazila on Monday.

Twelve of the seriously injured people were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

Children arranged a wrestling competition in the village. As usual, one group lost, but could not take it easily. They fell upon the other group, resulting in a clash.

This drew elders on both sides, who instead of quelling the situation were locked in a clash.

The number of injured increased as some of them used lethal weapons, police and locals said.

The rival groups belonged to Zahurul Islam and Golam Nabi.

The persons admitted to hospital are Moslem, Monain, Shaheb Ali, Kawsar Ali, Ibrahim, Abdus Sattar, Amin Joasader, Mizanur Mallick, Mansur Ali, Year Ali, Mujibur and Takabbar Hossain.

'Release documents on Col Taher killing case'

A CORRESPONDENT, *Manikganj*

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) has demanded publication of all documents related to Col. Taher killing case.

The demand was made at a discussion meeting here, held on the occasion of the 31st founding day of JSD.

The speakers said killing of Col. Taher has tarnished the image of the country.

They claimed that the government failed to run the country and demanded formation of a 'national government' to free the people from the 'misrule of the four-party alliance government.'

The ruling party is politicising the administration and patronising criminals, they alleged.

The speakers included JSD central Joint Secretary Iqbal Hossain Khan, district unit president Abdus Salam Bulu and vice-president Jebesh Chakraborty.

Signature forgery

Real Estate owner sued in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

A Real Estate owner was sued on charge of forging signature of a senior assistant secretary of Home Ministry on Sunday.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) filed a case with Pabna Sadar police after a preliminary investigation against the proprietor of Latif Real Estate, Abdul Latif Biswas on charge of forging signature of the Home Ministry senior assistant secretary Mizanur Rahman.

On April 5 in 1997, a letter was sent by post and fax to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Pabna forging signature of Mizanur Rahman asking him to relieve Latif Biswas from former municipality chairman Sheikh Shahidullah murder case.

The DC who was a district magistrate (DM) sent a photocopy of the letter to the Public Prosecutor on April 15, 1997 requesting him to make arrangement for dropping the name of Abdul Latif from the murder case.

A preliminary investigation by the CID revealed that Mizanur Rahman's signature was forged in the letter.

100 hurt as villagers clash in B'baria

Police fire shots to quell violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

At least 100 people were injured as villages clashed in Sarail and Nasirnagar upazilas on Monday.

Police fired 10 shots to quell the clash in Sarail.

According to eye witness, police and hospital sources, Mir Islam of Teeghar village in Sarail upazila went to Sarail Jafar Khal for fishing at about 10 am. Md Noor Mia of Beeghar village of the some upazila resist him.

As they were locked in an altercation and duel, their fellow villagers came out with lethal weapons and swooped on each other. The clashes lasted about two hours, leaving 60 people injured.

Twelve of them were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and the rest were sent to Sarail upazila health complex and local clinics. Meanwhile, on information, the Sarail Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and the officer-in-charge of Sarail thana rushed there with a police team.

Police fired 10 shots and brought the situation under control.

In the other incident on the same day, at least 40 people were injured when two groups clashed at Dharmondol village in Nasirnagar upazila over harvesting paddy.

Five of the injured were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and the rest were treated at Nasirnagar upazila health complex.

CU shuttle train derailed

CU CORRESPONDENT

A compartment of Chittagong University (CU) shuttle train derailed near the Battali railway station in the port city Monday morning.

None was injured.

Witnesses said, the last compartment of the campus-bound train from city derailed a few minutes after it left the station at 8:30am. The train went to the campus leaving the derailed compartment.

The compartment was salvaged.

Allegation of misbehaviour during joint forces' raid refuted

I will sue the BDR Capt, says Razzak Ali's sister-in-law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

BDR Capt Kamal Pasha has refuted the allegation that he misbehaved with the sons and other members of the family of Asma Shamsuddin, sister-in-law of former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, during a raid on her Kahlispur house on Saturday.

The BDR Captain led the joint forces during the raid on the house -- Noor Jahan Manjilat -- at Padma Oil Road.

He termed 'blatant lie' the allegations that he abused the women inmates and damaged furniture and other articles during search for Leo, eldest son

of Asma Shamsuddin.

Joint forces raided Noorjahan Manjil on the basis of written complaint that her son Leo commits crimes and possess a point two-two bore rifle, Capt. Pasha said.

The licence of the firearm is in the name of Asma Shamsuddin, but it is used by her son for crimes, the BDR Captain said.

But Mrs. Asma Shamsuddin, insisted that Capt Pasha showed unbecoming behaviour during the search without any warrant of arrest against her son Leo.

"Joint forces ransacked each and every room during the raid", she alleged. "I shall sue the BDR Captain for the damage he has done without any legal ground", she said.

When contacted, the Police Commissioner regretted the incident and said the matter will be probed.

The OC of Kahlispur thana could not also say if there is any specific case against Leo.

The firearm seized from Noorjahan Manjil was returned to its legal owner-- Asma Shamsuddin-- on Sunday night, sources said.

Diarrhoea claims 8 in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Diarrhoea has claimed at least eight lives in two upazilas of the district.

A total of 824 diarrhoea patients were admitted to different hospitals in the district in seven days till Sunday, according to the Civil Surgeon's office here yesterday.

Of the deaths, four were in in Mridha Para village in Sadar upazila.

They are Anwara, 4, daughter of Ayna Miah; nine-month-old Khodeja, daughter of Suta Begum; Rozina, 11, daughter of Ajamat Ali, Obaidur Rahman, son of Momtazuddin.

Four others include three children of a family in Mailora village in

Phulpur Upazila. They are Billal, 9, Rozina, 9, and Ruma, 3, son and daughters of Giasuddin. The identity of the other victim could be known.

Of those attacked with the disease, 338 were in Phulpur upazila, 100 in Trishal, 88 in Iswarganj, 65 in the Sadar, 67 in Haluaght, 66 in Gouripur, 46 in Phulbaria, 41 in Muktagacha and nine in Gafargao upazila.

Rush of diarrhoea patients has also increased in Surjo Kanta (SK) Hospital, a hospital for infectious diseases in the district town, where 235 patients were admitted till Monday since October 27.

He said he got only 200 bags of IV saline on November 1, which is very poor for the need.

At least 200 bags are needed daily in one affected upazila here.

Dr Abdul Kader, Medical Officer at

Stolen VGF rice recovered from UP Chairman's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Police led by a magistrate recovered 60 bags (4860 kg) of VGF rice from the house of a Union Parishad chairman in the district recently.

The rice was allotted for free distribution among the poor.

Acting on a tip-off that misappropriated VGF rice was stocked for sale in the lackmarket, magistrate Kiron Chandra Roy together with a police team raided the house of Ataur Rahman, chairman of Ghuridoha UP under Shaghatata upazila in the evening.

The chairman fled away by jumping over the boundary wall.

Police arrested UP member Saidur Rahman who helped the chairman to flee.

The government allocated 12 tonnes of rice under special VGF programme for 1200 families in Ghuridoha union.

The UP chairman allegedly distributed five kg rice per head against 10 kg allocated per head and misappropriated 60 bags of rice.

Teacher recruitment exam in Bandarban postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

The two-day viva-voce examination for recruitment of assistant teachers, scheduled to begin from Monday at Bandarban Primary School was postponed.

The decision was taken following a telephonic discussion among State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafarul Islam Chowdhury, Minister-in-Charge of Bandarban, local BNP leaders and chairman of Bandarban District Council Mamya Ching.

"The examination has been postponed due to confusion in government instruction regarding freedom fighters' quota," said Bandarban District Council Chairman Mamya Ching.

15 hurt in Shahjadpur police-JCD clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

At least 15 students were injured in a clash between police and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhtra Dal (JCD), students wing of ruling BNP, at Shahjadpur on Monday.

Police picked up JCD leader and Shahjadpur government Degree College Students Union General Secretary Al Amin but released him later on the day.

Witness said the students were injured when police charged batons on a JCD procession in the town. The students also hurled brick bats on police during the clash.

The procession was brought out protesting alleged misbehaviour of the Shahjadpur thana officer-in-charge with Al Amin and some other students union leaders who went to the thana on Saturday.

Road mishap

2 killed, 60 hurt in Barisal, Gaibandha

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two persons were killed and 65 people injured in road mishaps in Barisal and Gaibandha on Monday.

Our Correspondent reported from Barisal that two persons were killed and 35 injured, 10 of them critically when an over-loaded bus fell into a roadside ditch at Bamrail on the Barisal-Dhaka highway Monday morning. The dead are Nupur Rani Shaha, 13, of Bamrail and Abdus Sattar Howlader, 60, of Laxmankati, Gournadi.

Police, said the bus was carrying passengers on its roof also.

Eleven of the injured were sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (BSBMC) in critical conditions where two of them died.

The injured admitted to BSBMCH are bus helper Khokan, 26, Anisur Rahman, 35, Motalab, 40, Jamal, 22, Sattar, 45,

Kalam, 35, Kiron Bala, 60, Shirin Begum, 26, and Abdul Hye, 60.

Babul, 35, Jesmin, 8, Sabuj, 13, Naznin, 11, and Surendranath Dhar, 60, have been admitted to Uzirpur Upazila Health Complex.

Those admitted to Gounadi hospital are Iqbal Sharif, 30, Ekrumunnessa, 65, Rahima Begum, 25, Beauty Begum, 35, Rani Begum, 12, Karam Ali Sarder, 70, Nurnabi, 40, and Alauddin, 48.

The driver of the bus fled away.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that 25 people were injured, three of them seriously, when a Rangpur-bound bus skidded off the Sunderganj-Rangpur road at Ramdev on Monday.

All the injured were admitted to Sunderganj health complex.

The driver and helper of bus managed to flee.



PHOTO: STAR

Don't be misled...The signboard does not lead to a police investigation centre because nothing of the sort exists. It was erected at Dahagram enclave in Lalmonirhat district long ago, but the proposed centre is yet to be set up. There is no police camp in the enclave.