

SNAPS

RU admission form distribution from Dec 27**A RU CORRESPONDENT**

Admission forms for first year Honours classes for 2003-2004 session in Rajshahi University will be available from December 27 to January 15 at Agrani Bank on the campus.

The last date for submission of the forms is January 16.

Admission test will begin on February 14.

This year the test will be held both under grading and traditional systems.

The Academic Sub-committee at a meeting took the decisions on Tuesday with Vice Chancellor Professor Faisal Islam Faruki in the chair.

BRU protests repression on journalists**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

The Barisal Reporters' Unity (BRU) brought out a silent procession in the city on Wednesday condemning repression on journalists throughout the country.

A rally followed the procession which was presided over by the BRU president Anisur Rahman Swapan while its Secretary Shawkat Milton, ex-Secretary Mir Maniruzzaman and ex-Treasurer Pulok Chatterji spoke.

The speakers slated arrest of a photojournalist at Rajshahi, lodging of cases against the Editor of daily Jugantor, filing of false cases, police harassment and threats by journalists to the newsmen of Barisal division.

Harassment protested**A RU CORRESPONDENT**

Several hundred students and cultural activists brought out a silent procession on the Rajshahi university campus on Thursday protesting harassment of two female cultural activists of Anushilan drama group allegedly by a leader of Jatityabadi Sangskritik Sangstha (JSS).

The protesters held a rally in front of the business faculty. The speakers demanded exemplary punishment to JSS leader Masudur Rahman Kajol.

The speakers included former Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Khalek and other teachers, litterateurs and cultural activists.

PBCP has a huge stock of arms, says Khulna SP

Joint forces arrest 5 hardened outlaws in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Joint forces arrested two armed cadres of the Jana Juddho faction of outlawed Purbangar Communist Party (PBCP) from Bujunia bazaar under Batiaghata upazila on Tuesday.

They are Sabur Sarder, 32 and Abdul Halim, 30. Two shutter guns and a Pipegun were recovered from their possession.

Police said the outlaws were wanted in several criminal cases including three murder cases against each.

Khulna Police Superintendent Habibur Rahman said Sabur Sarder was the 'second-in-command' of Dakop-Batiaghata unit of PBCP (J).

There is a huge stock of arms and ammunition with PBCP (J) armed cadres of Batiaghata-Dakop unit. These include arms looted from Ansars of Daulatpur Jute Mill at Khalishpur on the night of April 24 this year.

They are also in possession of modern automatic weapons, the SP said.

The joint forces also arrested on

Tuesday another outlaw of NBCP -- Shafi Morol, 28 -- and recovered a foreign revolver from his possession.

Police said Shafi was arrested from Alka village under Phultala thana where he went to collect Tk 30,000 as toll from shrimp farm owner Kanai Lal.

Acting on Shafi's confession, police later on the day arrested two more alleged outlaws of NBCP Mofizul, 24 and Saeed, 26 -- from the same village.

Suspension of BRTC service

Hartal in three Sylhet upazilas Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A sudden decision to withdraw BRTC service from Sylhet-Tamabil road has sparked widespread agitation among people of Jaintapur, Gowainghat and Kanaighat upazilas.

The Brihattar Jainta Samannaya Samity at a rally at Jaintapur upazila headquarter on Thursday gave a 72-hour ultimatum for withdrawal of the decision. Otherwise, a 12-hour hartal will be observed in the three upazilas on November 10.

Tougher agitation programmes would be launched soon, leaders of the Samity told the rally.

The BRTC Chairman, on orders from the Communication Secretary, on Wednesday asked the local BRTC manager to bring back all double

decker BRTC buses from Jaintapur to Sylhet to suspend the service on the Sylhet-Tamabil road.

The manager went to Jaintapur to bring back the buses but failed in the face of local people's resistance.

As the news spread, thousands of people gathered at the upazila headquarters and held a rally protesting the decision.

Chaired by former chairman of Jaintapur Upazila Parishad Sirajuddin Ahmed, the rally was addressed by leaders of all political parties and chairmen of different Union Parishads.

They alleged that the authority decided to withdraw the service in the face of pressure from private transport owners and workers.

Communication Minister Nazmul Huda had inaugurated the service on

September 10. But it was suspended within a week following a strike by private transport owners.

The service was reintroduced on October 17 at the initiative of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman.

Meanwhile, transport owners and workers associations in Sylhet on Tuesday called a 72-hour strike from November 13 in the district to press their 20-point demand, which mainly include withdrawal of BRTC service.

A division level rally of transport workers and owners will be held at Court Point in Sylhet city today.

People of the three upazilas are boycotting private bus and minibus services for the 26th day yesterday as the transport owners and workers compelled the government to stop the BRTC service.

Boy killed for ransom

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

An eight-year-old boy, abducted for ransom, was killed on Thursday at Noyakandi Beparipara village under Rajoir upazila.

Minto Sarder, 8, son of Soleman Sarder, was abducted on October 30. The abductors demanded Tk 50,000 ransom. Failing to realise it, they strangled him and threw the body in a pond in the village.

On information, police recovered the body and arrested the alleged killers Jonirul Sarder, 25 and Rasel Mollaa, 20 of the same village.

Rajoir police said the alleged abductors had enmity with Soleman. The arrested persons were produced before court, which sent them to jail, refusing their bail prayer.

BCP ringleaders held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Detective Branch police arrested two ring leaders of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP-Mrinal) from Narkeltala in the town on Thursday.

They are Asmat Ali alias Samasi, 49, of Basundia village in Kotwali thana and Parimal Dhali, 48, of Khorera village in Dumuria upazila in Khulna.

Police said Asmat Ali was arrested in February but he fled from the thana hajat by breaking the wall.

They said, there are one AK 47 rifle, two 303 rifles and pistol in the possession of men led by Asmat Ali.

Parimal was in charge of the 'military department' of the party in the southern districts.

Both the BCP ringleaders were wanted in several cases including murder cases, toll collection, snatching and other crimes in Tala, Dumuria and Keshabpur thanas, police said.

Diarrhoea attacks 100 in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Over 100 people have been attacked with diarrhoea in different villages in Kalaroa upazila.

The disease is spreading. At least 20 patients were admitted to Kalaroa health complex on November 5 and 6.

Kalaroa Thana Health Officer Dr Rezanul Haq said diarrhoea broke out due to intake of adulterated food and impure water.

He however said the situation is under control. During visit to the health complex on Thursday, some of the patients told this correspondent that they were not getting saline and other drugs from the hospital.

'Loksamaj out to save Imam's killers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Khulna City Awami League (AL) leaders have blamed Dainik Loksamaj owned by Information Minister Tariqul Islam for publishing concocted stories for the last few days to damage the merit of advocate Manjurul Imam Murder Case and thus save real killers.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday acting president of city Awami League Shaikh Yunus Ali Inu blamed the Jessore-based daily for publishing unfounded and motivated stories about murder of the former city AL president. Dainik Loksamaj is out to save real killers of Manjurul Imam, Yunus Ali said.

The acting city AL president further informed Dainik Loksamaj is not only involved in yellow journalism but also misguiding people by blaming intra-party rivalry for the murder. The Jessore daily defends the killers of AL leaders and activists in the southwestern region of the country, Yunus added.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Garo tribe at Birishiri under Durgapur upazila in Mymensingh presenting a traditional dance during their greatest annual festival 'Wangala' on October 26.

2 killer brothers to die in Bhola

14 yrs RI for dowry greedy husband in Barisal

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two brothers were sentenced to death by a court in Bhola while another dowry greedy husband was awarded 14 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) by a court in Barisal on Wednesday.

Our Barisal Correspondent reports: Two brothers Abu Taher and Abdul Malek were awarded death sentence for murdering Ali Mia of Char Maya under Charfession upazila of Bhola district on February 15, 1997.

Farzana Begum, First Additional Sessions and District judge of Bhola announced the verdict on Wednesday. Both of them were ordered to be hanged by neck till death.

A long term dispute over ownership of land prevailed between the complainant and the accused persons who happened to be neighbours.

Taher and Malek forcibly entered the house of Ali Mia with a motive of murdering his eldest son Motahar on the fateful night. But failing to find out Motahar they indiscriminately chopped Motahar's father, mother and brother Ali Mia, Moniza Begum and Abdur Rob. Ali Mia died on the spot while two others were rushed at first to Bhola and subsequently to Barisal Sher-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Moniza and Rob survived after a prolonged treatment. Moniza Begum lodged a murder case against Abu Taher, 30, and his brother Abdul

Malek, 31, on February 16, 1997 with Charfession police.

Additional public prosecutor (PP) Shahjahan pleaded for the state and Advocate Jitendra Lal Banerjee was on the defence side.

Another report says: Shahin Molla, the dowry greedy husband of Badrunnessa Kiron was awarded 14 years RI by a court in Barisal on Wednesday.

Nur Al Huq, judge of Tribunal for Trial Cases under Prevention of Dowry Act also fined the convict Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer six months more RI.

The judgment was declared under Section 11(B) of the act after examining seven witnesses. Abdul Ali one of the witnesses and father of complainant Kiron died of heart failure at the verandah of the court during trial on October 27, 2002. Shahin and Kiron of Muladi upazila under Barisal district got married on June 16, 1995. They had one daughter and three sons.

But Shahin used to put pressure on her wife for dowry. Kiron lodged a case on April 4, 2001 which was mutually settled.

But Shahin continued to torture wife for dowry and another case was lodged on December 12, 2001 in this connection.

SPP Mohsin Montu pleaded for state and Advocate Mirza Salauddin was on defence side.

20 hurt in clash over land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At 20 people including five women were injured in a clash between the two rival groups over a land dispute at Haroddah village in the Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

Fourteen of them have been admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital. Condition of seven of them are critical. They are Jesmin Ara, Ali Akbar, Naser Ali, Lutfar, Nurul Islam, Khoda Box and Aziz.

The bloody clash erupted as rival groups led by Aziz and Ali Akbar tried to take possession of the disputed land. They used lethal weapons.

Two cases were filed with Satkhira thana.

Thousands join Raas Mela in Kuakata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Kuakata sea beach is alive with thousands of devotees, tourists and visitors from home and abroad on the occasion of Raas Mela, which began yesterday.

The over 100 year-old Hindu religious festival is held during 'Raas Purnima' or moon-light night of the Bengali month 'Kartik' every year.

Devotees standing in chest-deep water in the sea and facing the rising sun offer prayers seeking god's blessings.

Chiken, ducks, goats are also sacrificed in the name of lord Krishna for fulfilment of wishes. The eighteen kilometers Kuakata sea beach is crowded on the occasion.

Lawyers in Nilphamari continue court boycott

It dist judge probing murder of lawyer's assistant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A one-man probe body headed by Joint District Judge Khondokar Md Firoz is investigating the incidents that led to the murder of lawyer's assistant Tobarak Ali at the Judge Court building last week.

Disclosing this to The Daily Star, District Judge Rabiul Hasan said proper action will be taken against the persons found guilty after he gets the probe report.

Meanwhile lawyers, at the call of Nilphamari Bar Association, continued court boycott protesting the murder.

Tobarak Ali, fatally injured in beating at the court building on Saturday last, died in the early hours of Monday while he was being taken to Dhaka from Rangpur Medical College

Hospital.

It was alleged that three employees of the judge court had taken Tk 20,000 from one Md Emdadul Haque, promising bail for his brother Md. Mizanur Rahman, accused in a case filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

But as bail was not granted, Emdadul demanded return of the money. On Saturday, when Emdadul came to the court building for the money, the three court employees assaulted him.

His lawyer went to save him. This ensued a clash involving some lawyers, their assistants and court employees, in which Tobarak and five others were injured.

After Saturday's incident, a case was filed, which turned into a murder case

after the death of Tobarak.

The Bar Association on Tuesday held a condolence meeting at the court compound and brought out a mourning procession.

Police said they could not arrest any of the accused. It was reported that one of the accused -- Saiful -- who was admitted to Nilphamari Sadar Hospital for treatment of injury he suffered during Saturday's clash, fled from the hospital after hearing the death of Tobarak.

Police said seven other accused are also absconding. They are head clerk (Nazir) Shah Alam, record keeper (Serestadar) Akbar Ali, peons Shamsul, Saiful and Mofiz, Reader (Peskar) Rokun-uz-Zaman and Md Selim, an employee at the copy section.

30 hurt in Magura BNP clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 30 people were injured, 14 of them seriously, in a clash between two rival factions of BNP at Mithapur village in Magura Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

Witnesses said, the rival factions

led by Shaheb Ali and Ramzan Ali clashed over establishing supremacy in the area.

On information, police reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

All the 14 seriously injured have been admitted to Magura Sadar

hospital. They are Waliur, 50, Khaleque, 40, Zakir, 25, Zahidul, 18, Monimul, 25, Howa Bibi, 35, Saleha, 32, Shamsuddin, 55, Sohrab, 45, Iqbal, 25, Asad, 25, Shahidul, 20, Shaheb Ali, 35 and Monirul 30.

No case was lodged till filing of this report at 4-40 pm on Thursday.

UP member shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Union Parishad member was gunned down by gunmen in Dumuria upazila Tuesday midnight.

Abdul Wahab, 42, member of Shouna UP, was called out of his house by six persons on the plea of talks on payment of money earned from sale of shrimp, police said.

At one stage of the talks, one of them shot him, killing him on the spot.

The killing took place near a shrimp enclosure about two kilometres from his house.

The body was recovered from Nichu Khali shrimp enclosure on the same night. It was sent to his village home after autopsy in Khulna Medical College Hospital morgue.

None filed any case so far. Dumuria police however took into custody one Liton, 18, for questioning.

Exhibition on Quran in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A week-long exhibition of the holy Quran started at the Zia Hall in the city on Wednesday.

Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman inaugurated the exhibition, organised jointly by a committee and the Iranian embassy in Dhaka.

Vice Chancellor of Khulna University Prof Dr M Abdul Quadir Bhuiya chaired the inaugural function, also addressed by, among others, the cultural counsellor of Iranian Embassy Shahabuddin Darai, Vice Chancellor of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology Prof Dr Nausher Ali and convener of the exhibition committee Prof Dr Razaul Karim.

A keynote paper on 'World Peace and the Quran' was presented by Moulana Abdul Quddus. Discussants on the paper included Shaikh Belaluddin, president of Khulna Metropolitan Union of Journalists and Prof Rafiuddin Saber Rum.

The exhibition will remain open from 10 AM to 5 PM everyday till November 11.

Copies of Al-Quran from ancient period including handwritten copies, calligraphy, VCD and audio cassettes of recitation Quran are on display.