

SNAPS

New computer lab at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A new computer lab of Chittagong University (CU) Finance Department was inaugurated at the BBA faculty lecture gallery on Saturday.

Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury inaugurated the lab as chief guest.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop the lab was signed between the CU authorities and the New Horizon, a computer training institution.

Books donated

CU CORRESPONDENT

Noted social scientist and Professor of Chittagong University Sociology Department Dr Anupam Sen has donated 1,500 valuable books to the department's seminar library recently.

Dr Sen handed over the collection of rare books to the chairman of the department, Professor Dr Gazi Saleh Uddin at a simple ceremony.

Jute purchaser 'misappropriates' Tk 50 lakh of BJMC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An amount of Tk 50 lakh was allegedly misappropriated by a purchaser of a BJMC (Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation) jute purchasing centre in Galbandha.

Serajul Islam, purchaser of Bamandanga Jute Purchasing Centre under Sundarganj upazila, in collaboration with high officials, allegedly misappropriated the money. The entire amount was meant for payment to jute traders who supplied jute to the centre one year ago.

At present, the jute purchaser has been transferred to elsewhere in connivance with high officials, alleged Salek Sarker, a prominent jute trader of Pirgachha including Faruk Kabir, Gopal Sarker and others.

The complainants sent copies of their complaints to BJMC Chairman, Directors, General Manager and other high officials of the corporation.

They demanded immediate payment of their dues, formation of inquiry committee and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Notice on 7 RU JCD leaders

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Seven leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit at Rajshahi University (RU) have been asked to reply within seven days why they will not be expelled from the organisation for anti-party activities.

They have been asked not to take part in any activity of the organisation.

The seven are RU unit senior vice president Tofail Hossain Tipu, vice president Ruhul Kuddus Saran, sports secretary Sajjadur Rahman Saju and members Kabir Hossain, Rayhan Sarker Raju; JCD's Suhrawardy Hall President Sayed Hossain and Sher-e-Bangla Hall General Secretary Anwar Sadat Alo.

The notices were given on Friday following directives from JCD's central president Shahabuddin Laltu and general secretary Azigul Bari Helal, JCD sources here said.

Pneumonia kills 19 in Netrakona in 7 days

1,897 attacked, hospitals lack treatment facility

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Nineteen children died of Pneumonia and 1897 were attacked with the disease in Netrakona district in seven days till Friday, according sources at the Civil Surgeon's office.

The incidences of death and attack are alarming but hospitals lack proper treatment facilities, they said. Deaths are being reported from all the ten

upazilas, they said.

Dr Matiur Rahaman, a medical officer at Netrakona Sadar Hospital, however said pneumonia in this time of the year is a normal phenomenon because of change of season.

The Sadar upazila tops the list with four deaths and 205 children attacked, followed by Kendua with three deaths and 229 attacked. In Atpara upazila, three died and 181 were attacked.

The figures are two deaths and 211 cases of attack in Kalmakanda upazila, 2 and 312 in Mdanan, 2 and 240 in Purbadhala, one and 169 in Durgapur, one and 167 in Khaliajuri and one death and 103 cases of attack in Barhatta. Eighty children were attacked with Pneumonia in Mohongonj upazila, they said.

Children attacked with pneumonia are coming to hospitals in large num-

bers but their treatment is being affected due to shortage of beds at the Sadar Hospital and at upazila health complexes, the sources said.

During a visit on Friday many children were seen lying on floors at the Sadar Hospital.

Many parents were seen crowding the Sadar Hospital and upazila health complexes for medicines but returning home empty-handed.

USAID team visits 2 NGOs in Khulna, Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A USAID team headed by its Deputy Administrator Frederik Schieck arrived in Khulna on Saturday.

Other members of the team are Director of USAID Bangladesh Mission Gene V George, Deputy Mission Director Miss Beth Paige, Miss Robin Brinklay, Director of Governance and Education Miss Carol Horning and an official of USAID's Dhaka office Dr Rezaul Haque.

The team saw various activities of Bachte Shekha (learning to live) and Rupanantar (change), two NGOs in Jessore and Khulna respectively on the day.

In the evening, while exchanging views with journalists here, Frederik Schieck stressed the need for sorting out political and economic problems through democratic means with participation of all irrespective of political affiliations.



PHOTO: STAR Durbar Network, a local NGO, organised a discussion meeting at Mymensingh Press Club recently marking the International Day for Resistance against Women Repression.

Arsenic contamination at Matlab

Good response to rainwater filter system projects

CHARLOTTE JACQUEMART, back from Matlab

Rainwater and filter systems could be a temporary solution to the drinking water crisis Bangladesh is facing, said Mohammad Yunus, Senior Scientist and Head of the Matlab Health Research Programme during a field visit in Matlab.

So far, 16 pond filter systems (PFS) and about 120 Rainwater systems (RWS) have been installed in Matlab.

Because of the arsenic-poisoned tube wells all over the country, Bangladesh has to go back to using surface water, mainly of ponds and rivers. But this water is unsafe for drinking if not boiled.

"Simple filtersystems can solve the problem," explained Md Jakariya of BRAC, who joined the two-day field trip on Wednesday and Thursday. He is responsible for implementation of such projects in Matlab.

"We would need waterpipe systems in Bangladesh, but they are too costly to realise in the short run," Md. Yunus is

aware. Therefore, the ICDDR,B would recommend installation of rainwater- and pond filtersystems as temporary solutions, Md Yunus adds.

The PSF is a cement unit, which serve a whole community, and is composed of different chambers with filters. The filters are made out of sand and brick chips, eating the bacteria.

In order to construct a PSF, a pond owner has to cooperate, putting his or her pond at disposition for the benefit of the whole community.

Another system installed in Matlab is household-based rainwater system. Rainwater is collected, after being filtered, during the rainy season in a 3200 liter cement container. The volume of water will serve a family for about 7 month if not wasted. Total installation of a contained costs about Tk 9000.

The community or the household has to pay 20 per cent of the construction costs. "They have the choice between cash or kind", explained Md Jakariya. One day of labor is worth about Tk 150.

Hijacked cargo vessel seized at Muladi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police with the help of people recovered a hijacked cargo vessel with rice and pulses worth Tk 10 lakh at Muladi on Saturday and arrested one of the pirates. Police said the cargo vessel-- Dildar Ali-5 -- had sailed from Faridpur on Friday for Mirkadim in Munshiganj with 195 bags rice and 235 bags of pulses.

At Vangar Danga on the Padma river, a gang of pirates took control of the vessel and forced the crews to leave it.

They took the vessel to Muladi on Friday afternoon and anchored it near the Muladi primary school ghat.

Local people became suspicious seeing movement of the crew. In the early hours of Saturday, as the cargo attempted to leave the place, local people informed police.

SI Faruk and SI Siraj of Muladi thana, led by the UNO Muladi, raided the cargo, arrested one Fazlu Tarafdar and seized the loaded vessel. Other crew fled away.

Police said Tarafdar, a criminal and wanted in many cases, told them that Mizan, Sabuj and some others of Gachhua area in Muladi engaged him to the hijack the cargo and take it to Khaserhat Bandar in Muladi.

CU tense as JCD leader slaps ICS activist

CU CORRESPONDENT

A tense situation has been prevailing on Chittagong University (CU) campus following an incident of assault here on an Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activist by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) general secretary on Saturday.

Eye-witnesses said, JCD leader MR Milton Chowdhury slapped Faisal, a third year student of Political Science department, also an ICS "Sathi" at Sholoshahar railway station on charge of tearing down JCD posters pasted on the campus walls.

"We shall lodge complaint to the university authority soon as we like to go ahead systematically, told Abdul Awal Mamun, ICS general secretary to this correspondent.

Three to die in rape, murder case in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Three persons including a couple were awarded death sentence by a court here in a rape and murder case on Sunday.

The convicts are Hafizur, 48, his wife Rezeka Khatoon, 38, and Mohsin Ali, 50, of Badarganj upazila.

The judge of Women and Children Repression Control Tribunal, Rangpur, Molla Mostafa Kamal delivered the verdict after examining 15 prosecution witnesses and one defence witness.

Rezeka called victim Kamala

Start works programme in monga-affected areas, Hasina urges govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hsina bitterly criticised the government for what she called its failure to stand by the monga-affected people of northern districts.

"We urged the government to open gruel kitchens to feed the starving people, but it did not respond to our call", she told a wayside meeting at Panthapara on the Bogra-Rangpur highway in Gaibandha on Sunday.

On hearing about Sheikh Hasina's visit, thousands of sugarcane growers and workers of Rangpur Sugar Mills

blocked the highway and stopped her motorcade at Panthapara demanding withdrawal of government's reported decision to law off the sugar mill.

They also handed over a memorandum to the Opposition Leader.

She also addressed another wayside meeting at Matidali in Bogra on her way to Rangpur.

Hasina said the four-party alliance government did not open gruel kitchens because its weakness will be exposed if it does so.

The government could start a massive works programme to build or reconstruct roads and do other development works during the monga.

But, instead of creating jobs, it is closing down mills and factories, making people jobless, she alleged.

The AL chief said the people have virtually become hostage to the government's misrule.

"Terrorism, looting, extortion, rape and murder are going on unabated. There is no security of people life and property. So, this government has no right to stay in power".

She was accompanied by AL leaders Motia Chowdhury, Sultan Mohammad Monsur Ahmed, Pankaj Devnath, SM Kamal Hossain and Khaled Ahmed Chowdury.

Three accused in double murder given bail in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three persons including the main accused in a sensational double murder case in Sylhet Sadar thana were granted bail by a magistrate court on Saturday.

During hearing of bail petition, First Class Magistrate Akram Hossain left the ejlash twice amid hot exchange of words between the defence and the prosecution lawyers.

The bails were granted on the first day of appearance of the accused in the court after three months of the double murder.

Nirendra Devnath, Dharendra Devnath and Dipak Dey are accused in the double murder of Siraj Miah, 60 and his son Saiful Miah, 35, in the morning of

September 13 last year. Nirendra Devnath is the main accused.

The two were shot dead and many others injured in an attack on Chatal village in Khadimnagar union under the Kotwali thana.

The prosecution lawyers had filed a 'Naraji' (objection) petition with the court against the bail prayer.

As the hearing began, lawyers of the two sides were locked in a hot exchange of words. The magistrate left the ejlash.

He returned after some time but the two lawyers again started exchanging words. He left again.

After some time, the magistrate returned to the ejlash and hurriedly ordered the bail for the three accused.

Two murderers get life in Habiganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Habiganj

Two murderers were sentenced to life term imprisonment by a court here on Sunday.

District and Sessions Judge, Habiganj, AKM Ishtiaq Hussain sentenced Ojid Miah and Masuk Miah of village Chanpur under Sadar upazila in absentia.

They were also fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer imprisonment for six

months more.

The accused called out Lokus Mia from his house at the same village at 7 pm on March 7, 1996. Since then he was missing. His body was recovered from the river Khowai on the following day.

Previous enmity was the cause of the murder.

Zaru Miah, brother of the deceased lodged a case with Habiganj police station.



PHOTO: STAR The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) organised a farmers' workshop on pest control at Momukh Union in Moulvibazar recently.