

SNAPS

Polytechnic Day observed in Patuakhali

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali Polytechnic Day was observed at Patuakhali Polytechnic Institute on Saturday.

A discussion meeting was held on the occasion with the institute's principal Dr Khan Rezaul Karim in the chair.

Prof Nurul Islam, principal of the Patuakhali Government Women College was the chief guest. The speakers included Mizanur Rahman of the Education Engineering Department and Golam Kibria, president of Patuakhali Press Club.

Jubo League leader stabbed

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola A Jubo League leader here was stabbed and critically injured by extortionists for his refusal to pay toll on Friday.

Jahangir Alam, 30, President of Dohygoar Nagar Union Jubo League remained sitting inside a shop in the bazaar when extortionists took him out of the shop and stabbed him in presence of people. He was admitted to Lalmonohar Thana Health Complex.

No case was filed as yet, according to police sources.

2500 applications pending with Moulvibazar BTTB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar A total of 2506 applications for new telephone connection are pending with the Moulvibazar telephone exchange for long.

Sources in Moulvibazar BTTB said demand for new telephone is many times the capacity of the exchange. The district town has two telephone exchanges with a capacity of 4000 lines and all are filled up.

BTTB earlier decided to add 3000 more lines but no step has been taken yet to implement the decision.

Girl kidnapped 5 days after marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira A newly married housewife was kidnapped by miscreants Saturday night from Sreeula village in Assassuni upazila.

Police said, Chumki, 20, daughter of Shahidul Islam of the village was married to Abdur Razzak of Shyamnagar on December 1. She came to her father's house on Friday.

On Saturday night, a group of miscreants allegedly led by Akhtarul Hossain abducted her. She is missing since then.

A case has been filed with Assassuni thana.

21 die of diarrhoea in Mymensingh, Lalmonirhat

Four die, over 100 attacked in a village

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Diarrhoea has killed at least 21 people and attacked over 600 in Mymensingh and Lalmonirhat districts.

Quoting hospital sources, our Mymensingh correspondent reported that the disease killed 17 people and attacked over 500 in the last fortnight. The number of people attacked since November one is 5330.

The dead include Razia Khatun, 3, of Radhakanal village and Umme Kulsum, 36, of Bidhaganj village in Phulbaria upazila; Monwara Begum, 30, of Aranya Pasha village, Khatun Jan, 70, of Phulbaria Kharua village and Masud, 12, of Mogadia village in Nandail upazila; Hazera Khatun, 50, of Shalihar village, Mahbubur Rahman, 5 and Bhutto Miah, 3, of Paltipara village

in Gouripur upazila; Moshida Khatun, 32, of Pakati Barobaria village in Gafarganj upazila; Abdus Salam, 50, of Mollickbari village in Bhaluka upazila; Jarangir, 8, and Dilruba, 6, of Bhati Dapuna village in the Sadar upazila.

In the last week of November, at least 25 diarrhoea patients were brought to Surjo Kanta Hospital and Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) daily.

The rush of patients has however come down, they said yesterday.

During a visit yesterday, some patients told this correspondent that they were not getting saline from hospitals.

When contacted, Civil Surgeon Dr Md Mahamud Hossain said the situation will be normal soon. He also said there is no scarcity of saline now as the hospitals got

more allotments.

A Correspondent reported from Lalmonirhat that four people including a woman died of diarrhoea and over 100 were attacked with the disease at Nijshai Kh Sundar village in Hatibandha upazila in three days till Saturday.

The dead are Jamila Begum, 25, Mannan, 21, Abul Hossain, 28, and Azahar, 19.

Local Union Parishad chairman Ajgor Ali told visiting newsmen that diarrhoea broke out in the village in an epidemic form and that he requested UNO Jotirmoy Barmon to take steps for opening of a temporary treatment camp there and supply of medicine and saline.

When contacted, Lalmonirhat Civil Surgeon Dr Sohrab Hossain said a medical team was sent to the village but denied that four persons died of the disease.

Tareq urges the wealthy to help the distressed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

BNP Joint Secretary General Tareq Zia urged the well-to-do persons of the society to come forward to help save the distressed humanity from biting cold.

On the second day of his tour to the northern districts he was addressing a gathering at Saidpur town hall while distributing warm clothes among the distressed people on Sunday afternoon.

He told the gathering that the government alone cannot render

the huge task, rather every able person should come forward spontaneously so that not a single person suffers from cold.

He announced that in his personal capacity he distributed blankets among 600 poor and wrappers among 300 distressed.

Local member of parliament (MP) Amjad Hossain Sarkar, district BNP general secretary Anisul Arefin Chowdhury and BNP central committee member Alamgir Sarkar were present during the warm clothes distribution ceremony.



BNP Joint Secretary General Tareq Zia distributing warm clothes among the distressed at Saidpur Town Hall in Nilphamari on Sunday.

Sex workers stage sit-in for rehabilitation before eviction

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Several hundred sex workers brought out a procession in the town and staged a sit-in in front of the Patuakhali Press Club on Sunday demanding their rehabilitation before eviction from brothels.

Their protest followed Friday's decision to evict them from brothels in the town by December 20.

On Friday, the newly formed Prostitution Eviction Committee and owners of houses lodging prostitutes at a meeting at the Press Club decided that the house owners would evict sex workers from their houses by December 20. Mowlana Abu Sajeed, president of the committee and Imam of Patuakhali Central Jam-e-Mosque, presided over the meeting.

As per the decision, the house owners asked the gay girls to vacate their houses by the stipulated time.

Laki Begum, 30, a leader of the sex workers, told newsmen, "We demand rehabilitation before eviction because we can not go back to our parents or relatives".

One hacked to death in Pabna

Another body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

One person was killed and two others critically injured on Sunday when unidentified miscreants kidnapped them from their houses and hacked them.

Police said miscreants kidnapped Ebadad Shiek, 30, Younus Ali, 35 and Ashraf Ali, 25 from Char Raninagar village in Pabna Sadar upazila, took them to a field and hacked them.

Edadad died on the spot. The two others were admitted to Pabna General Hospital.

Police said the incident could be a sequel to previous enmity over supremacy in the area.

On the same day, police recovered the body of an unidentified young man from near Santipur Bazar in Dulai union.

Sub Inspector Jagadish of Sujanagar thana said police went to the spot after getting information that a microbus dropped a body and sped away at about 2.30 pm.

The body was sent to Pabna General Hospital for autopsy.

One killed, 20 hurt in Bhola clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

One person was killed and 20 others were injured in an attack by his rival group at Patarchar of Gongapur union under Borhan Uddin upazila on Saturday.

The dead was identified as Ayub Ali Sarder, 70.

The victim along with fellow workers were reaped paddy from his land and loaded the yield in a trawler to set for home. His rival group armed with lethal weapons attacked them. The victim died on the spot while 20 others injured, one of them named Maksud, 27, critically.

Later, a compromise meeting was held at the house of Montoo, son-in-law of the victim where three Union Parishad chairmen were present. The attackers compensated the victim's family with Tk 30,000, according to the arbitration.

No case was filed.

'Garment factories can create jobs for the disabled'

CU CORRESPONDENT

A dialogue on 'Development Thinking for the Disabled' was held at the Shilpakala Academy in the city on Saturday.

First Vice President of BGMEA SM Nurul Haque was present there as chief guest.

Speakers at the programme said BGMEA can train disabled people and provide them with suitable jobs including fashion design to make them self-reliant.

The Chittagong Society for the Disabled (CSD) organised the programme marking the International Disabled Day.

CSD Advisor Prof AMM Toha presided over the discussion, participated by, among others, Prof. Kazi Mostain Billah of Chittagong University, Lion Towdidul Islam Chowdhury, lawyer Khademul Islam Chowdhury, Selim Nazrul and Jesmin Sultana Paru.

A large number of disabled people spoke about their problems.

RU Golden Jubilee

BCL protests PM's planned visit

A RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on Saturday protested Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's upcoming planned visit to the campus on December 21 on the occasion of the university's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

They paraded the campus in a procession and said they will launch a bigger protest jointly with like minded student bodies if the invitation to the PM is not withdrawn.

BCL leaders claimed that the President who is the chancellor of the university should be invited on the occasion. But the RU authorities invited the Prime Minister for "political gain".

One killed in Barisal road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

One person was killed and 13 people were injured when a bus knocked down an autorickshaw on the Charmoddi-Charkawa road near the city and fell into a roadside ditch on Sunday.

Police said autorickshaw driver Altaf Hossain, 58, died on the spot as the speeding bus (no. Dhaka Metro-Baa-04-3079) belonging to Mili Paribahon hit the three-wheeler.

People nearby rescued the injured passengers and sent 13 of them to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Two of the injured-- Abul Sikder, 60 and Kalu Sarder, 50-- were in critical condition, police and hospital sources said.

Bus driver Nayon fled away. Police handed over the body of Altaf to his relatives after post-mortem.

Probe begins into 'eviction threat' by Hatibandha police

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Probe into the alleged eviction threat to a person by Hatibandha thana officer-in-charge has started, police sources said yesterday.

The probe follows filing of a case by one Azizul Haq of Bichhon Dai village with a First Class Magistrate's court on November 29 against OC Abdus Sobhan, seven cops including ASI Abdul Mannan and 13 people.

In the case Azizul alleged that 13

Pneumonia claims 8 in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

At least eight children died of pneumonia and 1519 have been attacked with the disease in the Sadar upazila.

Two of them died in the last six days, sources at the Sadar Hospital said yesterday.

Everyday, 45 to 50 children

are being brought to the hospital, they said.

This correspondent during a visit to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital found pneumonia patients also on floors at the children's ward.

Some mothers alleged that they have to buy all medicines from outside for their children.

Senior Staff Nurse Shipra Mondal said pneumonia has turned serious in the last few days as winter has set in.

The patients turn critical as most of the parents are not aware of symptoms of the disease. They bring their children to hospitals when the situation turns critical, she said.



The children's ward at Gopalganj Sadar Hospital is crowded as all the beds are occupied by pneumonia patients. The picture was taken recently.

Fog disrupts road, air, river links

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Night-time dense fog since Saturday night is hampering the southwestern region's air, river and road communication with other parts of the country.

Thousands of passengers have to remain stranded for hours in different routes because journey is hazardous as fog blurs visibility at night.

Sources in Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), Roads and Highways Department and many passengers told this correspondent here yesterday that night transports had to move at dead slow speed and often remained stranded as fog blanketed many areas after about 11 pm on Saturday. The sun is not visible for two-three hours in the morning.

They said launches and BIWTC vessels including PS Lepcha reached Barisal three to five hours behind schedule on Sunday and Monday.

5 'outlaws' held, 3 firearms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested five alleged outlaws and recovered three firearms and four hand bombs from Sadarpur village in Kumarkhali upazila in the early hours of Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, Kumarkhali police raided the house of one Hasibul, an alleged leader of New Bipplobi Communist Party (NBPC), and arrested him along with four other party activists-- Masud Rana, Rashid, Rafiqul and Liton. Police said, they were holding a secret meeting at the house.

The firearms include two rifles and one shutter gun.

Probe begins into 'eviction threat' by Hatibandha police

people including some ruling party supporters in the village looted and demolished his house on November 13 and turned his homestead into a field. They threatened him to leave the village.

As he went to the thana to file a case, the OC and some other policemen also asked him to leave the homestead and threatened of arrest for non-compliance, he alleged.

During a recent visit to the village, newsmen saw that Azizul's left their homestead and took shelter elsewhere.



Azizul Huq's homestead at Hatibandha in Lalmonirhat was razed to the ground by miscreants recently. Police allegedly sided with the attackers.

Assault of army officer

JCD activist placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist Ahmed Habib Ibne Islam alias Chamak, charge sheeted in a case for assaulting an army officer, was taken to custody on Sunday when he appeared before a magistrate court for bail.

Speedy Trial Court Magistrate Shoaib Ahmed Khan rejected his bail prayer and placed him on three days' remand.

Charge sheet in the case was submitted in the court on November 16.

Seven other JCD activists included in the charge sheet were arrested earlier. They are Lavlu, Abdul Hakim, Muhibul Haque Chowdhury Rahi, Aminur Rahman Pamel, Junel Ahmed, Lipu Banik and Dibya Roy.

They assaulted Second Lieutenant Jubayer of Jalalabad Cantonment at Baruthkana area in the city on the night of November 7 and pointed gun, according to the FIR.

Station Commander of Jalalabad Cantonment Brig. Gen. Matiuur Rahman filed a case with the Kotwali police under Speedy Trial Act

Police said all of them were engaged in criminal activities in the city and accused in cases for murder, snatching, extortion and kidnapping.

They were arrested on several occasions, but they manage to come out of jail within days by using their political influence, police said.