

National

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, May 10: A meeting of the newly formed Legal Aid Committee of Satkhira was held at the district Judge's Court building recently.

Alauddin Sardar, District and Sessions Judge, Satkhira, was in the chair.

Ruhul Amin Khondakar, Sub-Judge, Satkhira, Sirajuddowla, Additional District Magistrate, Satkhira, Advocate Dildar Rahman, president Satkhira district Bar Association, Advocate Golam Muhammad PP, and Advocate Abdur Rashid GP spoke on the occasion.

BNP meet

A meeting of the executive committee of the BNP Satkhira district unit was held at the local pourasava auditorium recently.

Advocate Shamsul Haq, president, Satkhira district BNP, presided over the meeting while Kamrul Islam Farooq, Altaf Hossain, Shahadat Hossain, Prof Nazrul Islam, Surat Ali, Amanullah and Tojammel Hossain spoke on the occasion.

A 39-member Convening Committee of sadar thana BNP headed by Modasserul Huda and a 31-member Convening Committee of Assassuni thana BNP headed by Advocate Shahidullah were also formed.

Ganja plant

recovered

Shahjahan Talukdar, Inspector, Narcotics Department, Satkhira circle recovered five ganja plants from a field owned by one Jahar Lal Rishi of village Basantapur Rishipara under Debhata thana of the district recently.

Acting on secret information officials of the department launched the drive and recovered the ganja plants cultivated by Jahar Lal Rishi, it is reported. A case was lodged with Debhata police station in this connection.

Shahid Rimu
plaque unveiled

Abdul Jalil, chairman, Satkhira pourasava unveiled the Shahid Rimu memorial plaque at post office corner of Satkhira town in a simple ceremony held here recently.

A F M Entaj Ali, Jehuda Chowdhury mother of Shahid Rimu, Mir Monzur Ali, Sk Abu Nasim Moina, Sk Nizam Uddin, Rowshan Ara Khanam, Advocate Mustafa Lutfullah, Golam Rasul, Advocate Sk Azad Hossain, Belal, Asit Kumar Majumdar, Ex-Principal Satkhira Government College and Kazi Shaidur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

Unidentified
body recovered

Assassuni thana police recovered a body of an unidentified person (28) from the river Marichchup near village Kamalkati of the thana recently.

It is reported that the local people found the body floating on water of the river Marichchup and informed Assasuni thana police of the incident.

Acting on secret information police rushed to the spot and brought the body to Satkhira hospital for autopsy. None identified the body. A case was lodged with Assasuni police station.

One commits
suicide

One Shalima Khatun (13) daughter of Nur Muhammad of village Phulbaria under Debhata thana committed suicide by taking liquid pesticide recently.

Bullets missing
from cop's bag

JHENIDAH, May 10: Forty rounds of bullet were missing from the bag of a police constable who came here Friday from Narail on a special duty, reports UNB.

Officials said a police squad came from neighbouring Narail district for duty during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's public meeting at Kotchandpur on Saturday.

They stayed at the local police barracks Friday night. The following morning, constable Mizanur Rahman found 40 rounds of bullet missing from his bag.

Mizan filed a case with Jhenidah sadar thana yesterday morning.

Sitakunda BNP
leader stabbed

MIRSARAI, Chittagong, May 10: A local leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Sitakunda thana was stabbed in front of Nizampur College by a group of miscreants today. Witnesses said a group of Chhatra League activists forcibly took out Abedin from a bus at Nizampur College gate and stabbed him after beating mercilessly. He was returning home from Mirsari, reports UNB.



A view of the Tamabeel area of Sylhet district.

— Star photo

Karnaphuli Paper Mills to grow jute for use as raw material

CHITTAGONG, May 10: Karnaphuli Paper Mills (KPM) has taken up a project to cultivate jute in the Chittagong hill tracts area for the first time for using green jute as a raw material for paper production, a KPM press release said here Monday, reports BSS.

Initially the jute growing project of KPM includes cultivation of jute on 204 acres of land. Of the total land under the project, 84 acres belong to KPM while the rest are owned by tribals and non-tribals.

The KPM authorities expect to increase the production level from 32,000 metric tons of paper to 48,000 metric tons per annum when green jute will be used as a raw material.

Industries Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye Monday visited jute growing project of KPM in the hill tracts. He told the jute cultivators that use of green jute as a raw material would bring about a revolution in the country's paper production. He asked them to grow jute in the greater interest of the nation. Jute growers of the CHT would also be benefited economically, he added.

CU students' council session

The council session of the Chittagong University Chhatra Dal was held at the BNP office at Nasimon Bhaban here Monday according to BSS.

Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban. There is a vast tract of fallow land in the three districts which would be used for growing jute.

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In his presidential address Nazimuddin Alam said that the tolerance and patience of Chhatra Dal to eliminate violence from the educational institutions were highly praised by the people. The onward march of Chhatra Dal can not be stopped by terrorism as could not be stopped by it unleashed by Shibir workers in the Chittagong University to frustrate the Chhatra Dal conference there, he said.

The session was presided over by the General Secretary of the Chhatra Dal central committee Nazimuddin Alam. The function was addressed by the Minister for Fisheries and Livestock and Joint Secretary General of BNP Abdullah Al Noman as the chief guest. Other speakers were Chhatra Dal central leader Iftekhar Hossain Chowdhury, Shahiduddin Any, Mahbubur Rahman Shemina, Md Zonaed and BNP leader M A Sabur, according to an official handout.

The fisheries minister said, leadership have to be developed through the dedication and devotion for increasing the strength of the organisation.

He said that conspiracies were going on to spoil the forward march of BNP as some political forces were envious of the success of BNP to win over the hearts of the people. The Chhatra Dal workers have to play more and more useful roles to face those conspiracies, he added. In this connection, he termed the offshoots of some partners of the anti-autocracy movement with the same autocratic forces as a challenge to the hard-earned democracy.

Referring to the predominance of ideology to constitute leadership in political field, Noman said that conviction and commitment were essentially needed to develop leadership in a ideology-oriented political party like BNP. He called upon the Chhatra Dal workers to play constructive role as was in the past for the interest of the organisation.

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Professor M Badiul Alam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Chittagong University speaking as the chief guest at a discussion at CUCSU Bhaban recently to mark the hundred year of Swami Vivekananda's participation in Chicago Religion Convention in 1893.

— CU photo

They are rebuilding their battered homes

TEKNAF, May 10: Just a week after the fierce cyclone had mauled this southeastern tip of the country, taking the most of its toll in deaths and leaving a trail of devastation, life appeared to be slowly getting back to normal reports UNB.

Villages were alive again. Fishermen were out in the Bay. Farmers working on the fields. People were back to their daily chores. They were also seen rebuilding their homes.

A journey by helicopter on Monday from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf gave a bird's eye view of the scars wrought by the May 2 cyclone on villages along the coast.

They are rebuilding their battered homes and even started life as usual. We are trying to help them in whatever way possible, said Md Enamul Kabir, Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar.

The official death toll he gave was 186, including 83 Burmese Rohingya refugees and some 61 bodies of unidentified foreigners, mostly of Thai fishermen, that were washed ashore or found floating in the Bay.

Besides reviewing the situation at the camps, Blatter took the occasion to hand over a token relief of some plastic bags, biscuits, chira and gur for distribution among the cyclone-hit local people in Teknaf. He also announced that UNHCR will provide relief worth Taka 10 lakh for the cyclone-affected local people.

He said, a door-to-door survey was underway which should give a complete picture of damage wrought by the cyclone. It caused heavy destruction to forestry in the Cox's Bazar and Teknaf area.

The government has so far sanctioned relief worth Taka

47 lakh for the cyclone affected areas of the country, including the off-shore islands.

The storm had blown away many of the shanties at the 18 refugee camps for the Burmese Rohingyas. But thanks to the UNHCR and other relief agencies, including the local administration, that most damages at the camps have already been repaired.

We can prevent calamities. But we can surely save lives. That was proved during the latest cyclone, Hafizuddin said. We are learning from our experience.

He said, the government had started mobilising relief materials and volunteers in the vulnerable areas to help evacuate the people as soon as danger signals were hoisted. Our quick action and round-the-clock vigil helped save lives.

Meanwhile, the post-cyclone relief and rehabilitation programme has further been intensified in the district with formation of another four relief teams each headed by a magistrate, who already rushed to four affected unions of Ramu thana, says a BSS report.

The situation seems to be getting under control, UNHCR officials said.

Today (Monday), UNHCR Director for Asia and Oceania Werner Blatter visited some refugee camps in Teknaf area. The destruction came at a difficult time because of the rainy season ahead, he said.

Earlier such ten teams were sent to Teknaf and Ukhia thanas to streamline the relief and rehabilitation activities so that normalcy could be restored in the cyclone-battered areas within the shortest possible time.

These teams under the direct supervision of the three ministers, assigned by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, for Cox's Bazar, Teknaf and St Martin, have been working round the clock in the distressed areas to assess the needs of the affected people and their rehabilitation.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Telecommunications Minister

Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Textiles Maj. (Retd) Abdul Mannan are constantly observing the whole relief operation, visiting the affected areas and holding meetings with the local administration for smooth operation of the relief and rehabilitation activities.

District control room sources said that Taka ten lakh has already distributed among the affected people of the district as relief. A total of 316 tonnes of rice, 3000 bundles of CI sheets and taka ten lakh as house building grants were distributed among the affected people.

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In this connection they called upon the BNP workers to have closer observation of the people's opinion and must inform the appropriate authority if there is any dissatisfaction regarding distribution of relief material.

Earlier the ministers visited the Ukhia High School, where suspended SSC examination were being held.

The relief operations by the army in the affected areas have started and army helicopters have already reached Teknaf and St Martin Island with a huge quantity of relief materials.

However, none was arrested from the spot. They seized the bus and a case was filed with the Kotwali police.

Salim (22) was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital with head injury, hospital sources said.

UP Chairman shot dead in Magura

MAGURA, May 10: Chairman of Sreekoll Union Parishad in Sreepur thana of the district was shot dead by unknown assailants Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said, Shamsul Alam alias Sajjad, 45, also the President of union BNP, was killed at Barobee, one kilometre away from his residence.

Two bullets pierced his head and chest.

Family sources said, in the morning he left out from his house for Jhenidah and knew nothing about his return.

They said, a few days back an outlawed group tried to take his life at Sreekoll Bazar but he luckily escaped.

Police recovered the body from the beel at about 7 am Tuesday and sent it for autopsy at sadar hospital.