

## NEWS SNAPS

## Juba Dal factional clash in Kurigram

UNB, Kurigram

Three activists of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, BNP's youth front, were injured in a factional clash in the town Friday night. The clash ensued at the Fire Service crossing at midnight between the two rival factions over a previous dispute centering party programmes during Water Resources Minister's tour here Thursday.

The injured were identified as Aminul, Koel and Shah Alam. They were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where the condition of Aminul was stated to be critical. Following the incident, a rival group attacked the house of district Juba Dal president and ransacked the valuables. Later, on Saturday panic mounted in the town at noon when a group of Juba Dal attacked their rival activist Bulbul, 20, and beat up him mercilessly. Police arrested Bulbul and Idu in this connection.

## Foodgrains for 4310 VGD card holders

BSS, Barisal

A total of 776 metric tons of foodgrains have been sanctioned for distribution among the destitute people of 10 upazilas of Barisal through 4,310 VGD cards for six months.

According to an official source, these foodgrains will be distributed at the rate of 31 kgs per month per family. Of the total, 54 metric tons will be distributed among 300 destitute families in Agailjhara upazila, 75.30 metric tons among 420 families in Gourmadi, 37.80 metric tons among 210 families in Hizla, 79.20 metric tons among 390 destitute families in Mehandigonj, 37.80 metric tons among 210 families in Muladi, 32.40 metric tons among 180 families in Babuganj, 270 metric tons among 1,500 families in Bakerganj, 100.80 metric tons among 560 families in Wazirpur and 43.20 metric tons among 240 families in Banaripara upazila.



A N M A Zaher, Chairman, Executive Committee of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited addressing as the chief guest at a get-together of the officers and employees of Khulna Zonal office, Khulna branch and Daulatpur branch of the bank at a local hotel in the port city recently.

## Punishment to rapists, killers demanded

BSS, Chuadanga

A protest meeting against the rape and subsequent killing of little girl at Kurulgachi village in Damurhuda upazila was held at the union parishad premises Thursday afternoon.

The meeting was presided over by Abu Kaizar, former Chairman of Kurulgachi union and also as senior teacher of Kurulgachi High School. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Mohsin Ali, Shamal Chowdhury, Momotaj Rumi, Aslam, Jahana Parvin, Tariqul Islam Palas and Kohinor Begum, mother of Bobita. Speakers at the meeting demanded immediate arrest of the rapists and killers of the little girl and demanded their exemplary punishment.

## Officers asked to make railway profitable

BSS, Rajshahi

Deputy Minister for communication Asadul Habib Dulu called upon the officers and employees of Bangladesh Railway here on Sunday to work with sincerity and honesty to make railway a profitable sector.

He said the present government had undertaken massive realistic and effective schemes aiming at providing better services to the passengers of railway and its modernization. The minister said this while exchanging views at a meeting with the officers and employees of the Western Zone of Bangladesh Railway at the Zonal Headquarters.

## Civic amenities in Rajshahi to be increased

BSS, Rajshahi

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mizanur Rahman Minu, MP has underscored the need for formulating a master-plan for RCC to increase civic amenities as well as beautifying the divisional city.

The mayor was addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural function of a day-long workshop on "Local level participatory consultation on Rajshahi master-plan's at a local community center, here on Monday. RCC and World Health Organisation (WHO) jointly organized the workshop. Professor Nazrul Islam of Geography and Environmental Science Department of Dhaka University, Sarit Datta Gupta, Chief Engineer of RCC, Saiduzzaman, Assistant Chief of Planning Commission, Tapan Kumar Nath, Country Coordinator of Healthy City Programme, Professor Shamsul Alam of Geography and Environmental Science Department of Rajshahi University spoke on the occasion.

## Cash, valuables worth Tk 2.5 lakh looted

UNB, Bagerhat

Robbers stormed into two houses at Betkhal village in Sadar upazila, injured eight people and looted cash and valuables worth over Tk 2.5 lakh on Saturday night. Police said some 15-16 armed robbers equipped with arms swooped on the houses of late Adhir Kumar Mondal and late Sudhir Kumar Mondal at dead of night.

They entered into the houses breaking the doors open and kept the inmates of the house hostage after tying their hands and legs. The robbers mercilessly beat and chopped them as they raised hue and cry. The gang later decamped with cash, gold ornaments and other valuables. Of the injured, Dilip, 48, his wife Usha Rani Mandal, 40, Shova Rani, 60, and her son Bipul Krishna Mandal, 32, were admitted to Sadar hospital in critical condition.

## 15 BCL leaders, activists assaulted by ICS at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) in Chittagong University (CU) assaulted at least 15 leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) including its president and general secretary and some female leaders on the campus on Monday.

The CU unit of BCL enforced a strike on the campus on Tuesday protesting the attack on its leaders and activists.

The victims were Mahbub Elahi, president of BCL, Kazi Mazharul Islam, general secretary, Mamun, office secretary, social welfare secretary Ehsanul Huq Manik, vice president Taslim Akter Selim, law secretary Sabina Nur Akhi, Vice president Shahjahan Khan Samrat, Joint secretary Sumon, Science and Technology secretary Siddut.

Campus sources said the Shibir cadres beat up social welfare secretary Ehsanul Huq Manik at the station ground at 1:20pm. It was a sequel to a previous inter-conflict of ICS. The ICS cadres also beat him up Monday and tore down his examination form in the BBA faculty area on the campus and threatened him not to

come at the campus further.

The agitated BCL activists stopped the movement of the university shuttle train at the city's Sholoshahar station at 2pm where they also held a protest procession and rally.

When the ICS cadres attacked him on Monday, the other leaders of the BCL rushed to the spot to save him. At that time the ICS cadres beat up them in the presence of the proctor and police forces. The ICS activists also assaulted and abused the female leaders of the BCL.

Following the Monday's incident an internal conflict triggered among the ICS activists.

BCL leader Manik who was assaulted by the ICS cadres on Monday hailed from Cox's Bazar. Following the incident, a resentment was prevailed among the ICS leaders hailing from the same district. They led by Mamun, a senior leader of ICS asked the president of ICS Didarul Alam Mojumder not to assault any student hailing from Cox's Bazar.

The BCL will announce their further agitation programme on the campus today. Tense situation has been prevailing on the campus.

## One gets 17-yr RI for possessing pipegun

UNB, Rajbari

A court here has convicted an infamous criminal and sentenced him to 17 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in an arms case.

The convict was identified as Abdul Wahab Bepari, 45, of Ramnarayanpur village in Bera upazila of Pabna.

According to the prosecution, Wahab was arrested along with a pipegun from Pangsha upazila on September 27, 2000.

After examining the witnesses and records Rajbari Special Tribunal Judge Sheikh Saidul Islam pronounced the verdict on Saturday.

## Monthly grant for 200 rehabilitated 'Jumia' families introduced

UNB, Bandarban

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board has introduced a monthly grant for the 200 rehabilitated tribal 'Jumia' families under its Orange and Mixed Crops Cultivation Project in the current fiscal year.

Under the programme, monthly Tk 1000 has so far been distributed among each of the 100 farmer families of Ploy and Thyingkhong blocks in Ruma upazila and the grant will soon be distributed among the other 100 families rehabilitated in Sengum and Chanda blocks of the upazila.

Manager of the project said farmhouses have been constructed for each of the rehabilitated Jumia families.

Besides, 450 saplings of orange, 450 of papaya, 3,000 of pineapple, 1,000 of banana, 10 of mango and 2 saplings of coconut have been distributed among the families of the four blocks.

The rehabilitated families were imparted training on the modern method of cultivation.

## 5 murderers to suffer rigorous imprisonment

UNB, Naogaon

A court in Naogaon has sentenced five people to different terms of rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a murder case.

Of the convicts, Ahmad Ali, Mohammad Ali and Sefatullah were awarded 12 years' RI each and fined Tk 5000, in default, to suffer one year RI more.

Of the two other convicts Omar Ali was given two years' imprisonment with a fine of Tk 2000, in default, to suffer six months RI and Rafiqul Islam one year.

According to prosecution, the accused of the same village attacked and killed Jamal, son of Mekuruddin of village Enayetpur in Manda upazila while he was fishing in a disputed pond on March 30, 1992.

After examining the witnesses and records Additional District and Sessions Judge SM Soliman pronounced the verdict last week.

## Tk 1.91cr loan disbursed among youths

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Department of Youth Development has disbursed loan amounting to Tk 1.91 cr among the youths in Chapainawabganj last fiscal.

The department has distributed the loan among 2,403 young men and women under Youth Training and Self-Employment Project and Family-based Programmes.

At the same, 10,666 youths were imparted training on cattle rearing, pisciculture, computer and stenotyping.

## Tribal leader murder: Two get life-term RI in Tangail

UNB, Tangail

A court here has convicted two people and sentenced them to life-term rigorous imprisonment (RI) in the tribal leader Gidita Rema murder case.

The lifers were identified as Habibar Rahman alias Habi and Juran Ali alias Juru of Magantinagar village of Madhupur upazila. The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer one year RI more.

According to the prosecution, the convicts chopped their neighbour Madhupur upazila BNP activist and Adibashi tribal leader Gidita Rema to death on March 20, 2001, when she was going to nearby Beribaid Bazaar from her house.

After examining the records and witnesses, District and Sessions Judge Syed Harun Osmani handed down the verdict on Sunday.

Fourteen other accused were also acquitted as allegations brought against them could not be proved due to lack of witnesses.

Meanwhile, Madhupur Garo Chhatra Shangathan and Adibashi Unnayan Parisad rejecting the verdict brought out protest a procession and demanded death sentence to all the accused.



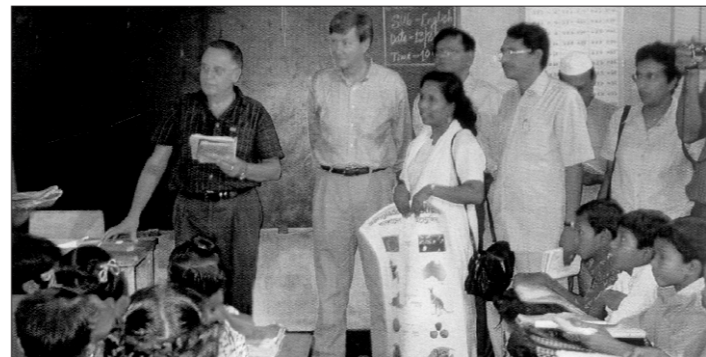
PHOTO: STAR

Artists of 'Kanthabithi', a poetry recital organisation in Magura, performing chorus at a programme in Narail on the occasion of 78th birth anniversary of the most celebrated artist of the country S M Sultan at a fair organised recently in his memory in the district town.

## IDEAL approach to education Enrolment rate in Dinajpur primary schools up by 97 pc

"Net enrolment rate has reached a gender balanced 97 per cent in the primary schools of Dinajpur where Intensive District Approach to Education for All (IDEAL) intervention has significantly addressed the quality issue in primary education in the last five years," noted the Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Robert Flynn on his arrival at Rajarampur Primary School in Sadar upazila, Dinajpur during a visit to see Australia-supported IDEAL intervention in primary schools, according to a press release of UNICEF.

The High Commissioner continued, "The Government of Australia has assisted the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to provide quality education to the children through United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the IDEAL Project since 1998. The Australian support to IDEAL now covers 2,000 schools in 13 districts of Dinajpur reaching 400,000 children." The Australian High Commissioner distributed colourful posters on Australia and



Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Robert Flynn accompanied by UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Morten Giersing and officials of the Government of Bangladesh visiting a classroom of Australia-supported Rajarampur Primary School in Dinajpur recently.

Bangladesh and some fruits among the children.

The Australian High Commissioner was accompanied by UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Morten Giersing, Professor Alauddin Ahmad, Project Director, IDEAL, welcomed the visiting team that included officials of the Government of Bangladesh, the Australian High Commission and UNICEF Moslehuddin, Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur and Abdul Latif, DD Rajshahi were present during the visit.

Calling the IDEAL Project a flagship programme in education for UNICEF worldwide, Morten Giersing, UNICEF Representative hoped that ideas promoted so successfully in IDEAL will be carried forward in the Primary Education Development Project (PEDP) II, which begins later this year. He thanked the government of Australia for the continued support that allowed significant expansion to IDEAL.

The visiting team met with the students, observed teaching learning process, interactions with the students in the classrooms, innovative use of classroom walls with visuals and other resources. They also spoke to school management committee members, parents and teachers to assess the impact of IDEAL intervention. They visited the Upazila Resource Centre (URC) and observed teachers' training and held a meeting with the primary education officials of Dinajpur.

IDEAL intervention started in the schools of one district in 1996 and now covers over 36,000 schools in 35 districts reaching over 9 million children. Dinajpur was one of the early IDEAL districts. IDEAL addresses the challenge of access, equity and quality education by imparting training to teachers on interactive teaching and learning methods and by innovative ways to make learning a joyful experience for students.

With improved school environment and with active involvement of community in the school management, IDEAL attempts to make a difference in the education system for a large number of children in the districts of Bangladesh.

UNICEF provides technical and financial support to the government of Bangladesh in the IDEAL project with the objective to ensure access, equity, gender parity and quality of the education programme. So far significant progress has been made towards achieving these goals.