

SNAPS

Child drowns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
A two-year-old boy drowned in floodwater in Gaibandha.
Ill-fated Rajan, 2, drowned in floodwater at village Kishamat Malibari under Gaibandha Sadar upazila on July 21. Rajan, son of Saiful Islam of village Maloncha under Bogra district came to visit his grandfather's house. He was playing in floodwater. Suddenly he fell down in deep water and drowned. He was rushed to hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
Police recovered body of a young man from a garden at Bheramara Wednesday.
The victim was identified as Anisur Rahman, 26, son of Abdul Awal of village Farakpur in the upazila. Police said, Anis went out to go a local bazaar on Sunday at about 3 pm. Since then he did not return home.
Anis's father filed a general dairy with Bheramara police station on the following day. On Tuesday he was found dead at the garden of Abdul Latif of village Chardamukdia in the same upazila. He was strangled. Police recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. The cause behind the murder could not be known immediately.

Illegal drug seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj
Police arrested three persons and seized 11 kilograms of illegal drug worth Tk 72,000 from Bilgozaria village under Sadar upazila on Sunday night.
Acting on a tip-off police officer Abdul Jabbar raided illegal drug trader Menhaj Ali's house at Bilgozari and arrested him.



PHOTO: STAR
Lux-Anandadhara Photogenic Alia Akbari Prottasa charmed the people of Patuakhali town during her tour here on July 17. In picture she is handing over a gift box to a Rakhaine housewife at the local Buddhist monastery for using Lux products. She also presented gifts to children of orphanage and many other housewives. On her arrival at the district town she addressed a press conference.

Hill cutting goes unabated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Illegal hill cutting is going on unabated in the port city of Chittagong defying government ban on it.
Hill cutting is going on in 12 hills at day light in different areas of Chanda Nagar, Ershad Nagar, Shahi Nabar under Bayezid thana and West Khulshi under Khulshi thana in the city.

A group of journalists of various dailies on Monday witnessed the scene of rampant and indiscriminate hill cutting in the areas. According to local people and workers, some influential persons are involved in the evil practice. Besides, dishonest officials of the authorities concerned were also involved, they told the journalists.
The bad practice is going on in front of thousands of people, but no members of the law enforcing authorities was visible there.

Hill cutting is going on for the purpose of residential plots and also for collecting earth. Earth collected through illegal hill-cutting are being sold at Tk 4,000 per truck, a price four times higher than what was only a few years back.

Of the money earned from the sale proceeds of a truckload earth, workers get Tk 1,000, the truck owner gets Tk 1,500 while Tk 1,500 goes to dishonest officials of different authorities concerned, witnesses alleged.

A 12-member committee led by chairman of the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) comprising members of district and police administration,

Chittagong City Corporation, WASA, Chittagong and the Department of Environment, has been formed to check the illegal practice. But the committee failed to stop the bad practice.
However, the CDA chairman was not available for comments. Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) sources said a total of 58 cases were filed for illegal hill cutting since January last year (2002) till date. Six of the cases were disposed by punishing the persons involved in the evil job.
Director of Department of Environment, Chittagong, Md Mosharraaf Hossain informed this correspondent about shortage of manpower and complained on lack of coordination among the authorities concerned.
At the directive of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, process is underway to form a Monitoring Cell under the supervision of district administration, the director revealed. Formation of the cell might help improve the situation, he hoped. He also informed that his department filed 17 cases including six with environment court in the last one and a-half-years.



PHOTO: STAR
Ananya Asad who scored GPA-5 in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination from Mymensingh Pre-cadet and High School under Dhaka Education Board is surrounded by her parents Md Asad Hossain and Taslima Akhtar.

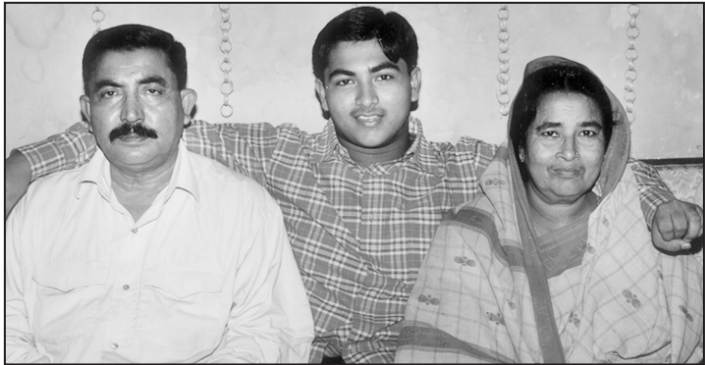


PHOTO: STAR
Md Rasheduzzaman of Mymensingh Zila School secured GPA-5 in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination this year under Dhaka Education Board. He is flanked by his parents Abdus Salam and Rahela Khatun.

Chittagong Government Commerce College tense

JCD, BCL at loggerheads over supremacy on campus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A tense situation has been prevailing at Chittagong Government Commerce College (CGCC) for the last couple of weeks.
The ruling party backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Opposition backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) are at loggerheads over establishing supremacy on the college campus.
Both the student wings may lock in bloody clashes anytime causing loss of lives, students of the college feared.

JCD attempted four times to occupy the college during the current month. BNP's student wing, in collaboration with police attacked general students as well as leaders of BCL at the college compound twice injuring about 20 students, it was alleged.

On Sunday, police and JCD jointly beat up the activists of BCL entering at the campus forcibly when seven activists of BCL were

injured.
Police, without any cause, went to the campus and resorted to baton charge on the BCL activists. At that time the JCD cadres led by its city unit president Moshaffar Hossain Dipti also beat them up.
JCD cadres along with outsiders went to the campus for three times in the current month.
According to a reliable source, JCD and BCL cadres have allegedly been accumulating a huge number of illegal firearms around the college campus.

Both the student organisations collected a number of sophisticated firearms allegedly including AK-47 and M-16 rifle. The leaders handed over the arms to new cadres in a bid to capture the college.

A huge amount of toll money is being collected at the campus which is the main reason to establish supremacy on the campus.
During the last regime of AL its

front organisation BCL collected near about a crore of taka as toll from the business establishments in the area.

After takeover of the BNP government, JCD became desperate to occupy the college in order to get illegal toll money from the area. Two students belonging to Islami Chhatra Sena were killed allegedly by the cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) at Commerce College in 1987. After the killing the ICS established their supremacy at the college. But they were ousted after 1992 from the campus and BCL captured it.

In the recent time JCD targeted two colleges and conducted show-downs during the last couple of weeks.

Pllice have been working as an associate force of the JCD activists, BCL sources alleged.

The college unit of BCL president Helaluddin alleged that JCD is trying to capture the campus forcibly and spoil the peaceful

atmosphere.
When contacted, the BCL city unit steering committee member Hasan Murad Biplob told The Daily Star that JCD is trying to upset the normalcy at the educational institutions in the port city with their outsider cadres under police protection.

"BCL will foil any attempt to occupy the Commerce College. We also call upon the genuine students to enter at the campus so that peaceful co-existence can be ensured".

Newly formed JCD city committee general secretary Rasel said to this correspondent we want peaceful co-existence of all student organisations and help create a congenial academic atmosphere in educational institutions.

However, police denied their association with JCD leaders and activists and said they went to the college 'only to avert any untoward situation'.

Strike at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Academic and administrative activities on the Rajshahi University (RU) campus came to a standstill on Monday due to observance of a strike called by the Council of Officers-Employees Unity.

Classes, examinations were not held on the day. University buses did not ply while the main gate of the administrative building was under lock and key.

The strike was called in protest against manhandling of former medical officer Dr Mirza Wazad Beg and Professor Ziadur Rahman on Saturday by some students.

A meeting was held at the campus where speakers demanded of the authorities concerned to find out the students responsible for the incident and publication of inquiry report of the incident within 15 days. Speakers told the meeting that the university authorities have totally failed to ensure the safety and security of Dr Beg.

Schoolgirl commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A school going girl committed suicide and by jumping under the wheels of a Dhaka bound bus on Thursday. She died at Bogra Mohammad Ali hospital on July 21.

The victim was identified as Suborna Khatun, 14, daughter of Yahacin of village Shaimla under Raiganj upazila.

The cause of the suicide could not be known. A case was lodged with Raiganj police station.

Young man rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A young man who was abducted on July 11 was rescued by police from a house in Mirpur upazila on Tuesday.

Police said, a gang of 10 outlawed party cadres abducted Anwar Hossain, 22, son of Kitab Ali at village Kalinathpur under Mirpur upazila on the day at about 8 pm while he was returning home from his sister's house at a nearby village. Later, the miscreants demanded Tk 2 lakh to his father for release. The victim's father filed a case with Mirpur police station on the following day.

Police raided the house of Shad Ali in the same upazila and rescued the victim.

An unforgettable headmaster

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The 14th anniversary of death of noted educationist and former Headmaster of Nilphamari High English School (now Nilphamari Government Boys' High School) Asir Uddin Ahmed passed silently on Tuesday (July 22).

No befitting programmes were arranged to mark the day. However, memory of the 'Headsir' still remains everfresh in minds of hundreds of his beloved students.

Glory of the school during his tenure is now a legend.

He took charge of the high English school as its first Muslim headmaster in early 50s and continued till late 60s.

During the British period he became a civil servant and was posted as a jailor. But he preferred the noble profession of teaching to civil service under the British government.

Asir Uddin regarded the students as his children. He created many golden sons like Shaheed Captain RAM Khairul Bashar (popularly known as Capt Bashar), late ambassador Humayun Kabir, late historian Enayetur Rahim, late Ahsan Ahmed, prominent engineer AR Saber, cultural activist turned politician Asaduzzaman Noor MP, Professor Ahaduzzaman

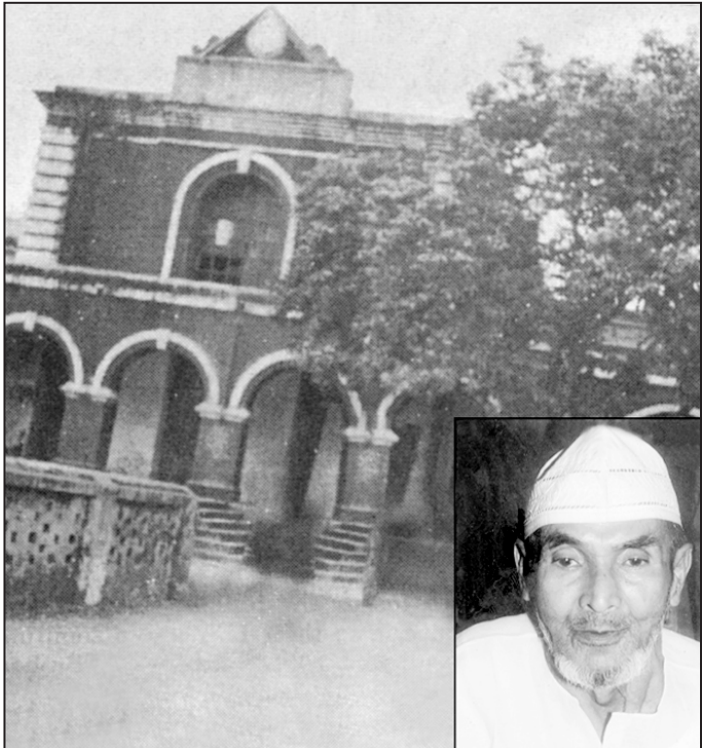


PHOTO: STAR
Front view of over a century old Nilphamari High English School (now Government Boys' High School) and its first Muslim headmaster Asir Uddin Ahmed (inset).

Mohammad Ali of Dhaka University, popular folk singer Rathindra Nath Roy, former MP Ahsan Ahmed, former bureau-

crat Ashraf Ali, BTV chief designer Razzaque and many others serving around the globe.