

## SNAPS

## Freshers' reception at RU

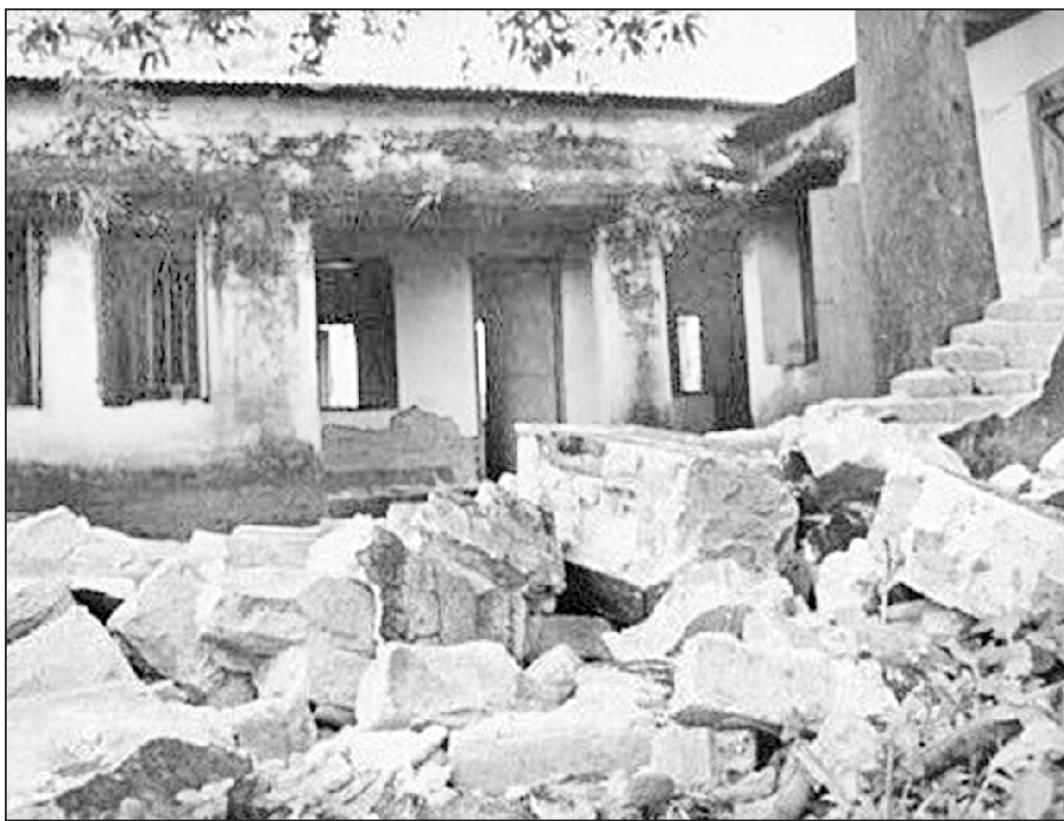
**A RU CORRESPONDENT**  
Students of Mathematics Department of Rajshahi University held a reception for the first year students at the science building on Tuesday.

Vice Chancellor Prof Fisul Islam Faruki and Pro-VC Prof KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondol attended the ceremony as chief guest and special guest respectively. Prof Dewan Muslim Ali, chairman of the department presided over the function.

## Seminar on trafficking

**A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat**  
A day-long seminar on creating awareness against women and children trafficking was held at Aditmari upazila recently.

Union Parishad members, officials, the local elite and journalists took part in the workshop, organised by Ekota Samaj Kalyan Sangstha, a local NGO.



Aimachhara health complex at Borkal is in ruins after Sunday's quake.

PHOTO: MONIRUL ALAM

## Steps to make Rajshahi Jute Mills profitable

250 looms from AJM to be installed, says minister

**BSS, Rajshahi**

The government has taken an initiative to make the Rajshahi Jute Mills (RJM), an enterprise of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), profitable through utilising the mill's resources.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting held at the mill on Tuesday with State Minister for Jute Lutfur Rahman Khan Azad in the chair, sources said.

It was attended by, among others, Jute Secretary ASM Abdul halim, BJMC Acting Chairman Mujibur Rahman, RJM Project Chief Abdul Maleque and officials concerned.

The state minister said the mill can be made profitable by utilising its existing machinery, without any more government funds.

He said one more production unit will be added to the mill by installing 250 looms from now-closed Adamjee Jute Mills as early as possible to create employment for 2000 more people. This will enable the mill to earn Tk 30 crore in foreign exchange annually.

He said the factory could easily earn Tk 2 crore profit within the current financial year if it is run properly.

He blamed corruption in purchase of jute and other raw materials including chemicals, poor quality of prod-

uct, negligence in duty, unionism and bad management for its present loss.

He laid CBA activities would not be allowed at the mill during working hours.

Lutfur Rahman called upon the mill management to put in their best to make the mill profitable for its survival.

According to official sources, the mill with 1308 workers and 227 staff including 49 officials has a production capacity of 28 metric tons per day.

The mill, set up on 49.02 acres of land in 1969, has also 7.20 acres of cultivable land.

## 13 out of 15 diagnostic centres in Bandarban illegal

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban**

Thirteen out of the 15 diagnostic centers in the district town are operating without government license, according to an official investigation report.

The Civil Surgeon (CS) conducted the probe as per a decision taken at a meeting of the district law

and order committee in May.

The CS submitted his report recently.

When contacted Civil Surgeon Dr Mahfuzur Rahman said the unauthorised pathological centers have been asked to take license within 30 days.

But so far neither any of the unauthorised centres has taken

license nor the government has taken any action, sources said.

The investigation report also said the unauthorised centres are operating in connivance with a section of health officials. But no action has been taken against any of them, sources said.

Bandarban is a malaria-prone district where over 200 people die of the disease every year.

People have to depend on private diagnostic centres, as there is no arrangement for blood test at the government hospital.

It is also alleged that patients often get wrong treatment because of wrong test reports provided by these unauthorised pathological centres.

## Aftershocks in Rangamati 91 houses destroyed, 169 damaged in Sunday's quake

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

Two more aftershocks hit Doluchhori and adjacent areas in Rangamati Monday morning.

The shocks were felt at an interval of about half an hour, local people and officials said.

Doluchhori is said to be the epicentre of the Sunday's tremor measuring 5.09 on the Richter scale that struck Chittagong and adjoining hill districts, injuring at least 25 people and damaging about 500 houses and government buildings.

When contacted, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Karim Gazi said, "Two more aftershocks hit Kolabunia in Aimachhara unions, which were affected in Sunday's quake".

At least 260 families were affected only in Aimachhara union in Borkol upazila of the district, official

records say. The Aimachhara health complex crumbled in the quake.

Ninety-one earthen houses collapsed while 169 more were partially damaged, he said.

People in the entire Borkol upazila are still scared, the ADC said.

Sunday's quake caused massive landslides and cracks in hill in Kolabunia, Choto Horina, Lotibachhara, Bangaltia, Ambagan and Aimachhara areas, local people said.

In Kolabunia, about two acres of arable land near the Kaptai Lake caved in seven feet, the ADC said after a visit to the area on Monday.

The landslides could be due to use of powerful explosives by the Grand Geophysical Incorporation during seismic survey in 1998-1999 for and gas, some sources said.

Expert's comment on it was not available.

## Another death sentence for Ershad Shikder

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

A Division Bench of the High Court has upheld another death penalty for notorious terrorist Ershad Shikder.

According to sources at Khulna judge court, hearing on death reference and appeal in Siraj murder case was held in the Division Bench comprising Justice Joinul Abedin and Justice Mir Hashmat Doula.

In the judgement delivered on Sunday, the Bench upheld death penalty given to Ershad Shikder and life term to four others by Hasan Imam, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Khulna.

The four others are Idris Jamai, Jamai Faruque, Joynal (Absconding) and Ayub Ali.

Siraj, a worker at Skidghat, was hacked to death by Ershad Shikder with the help of the four persons on the night of October 2, 1997.

Ershad Shikder cut the body into pieces and the four dumped it in Bhairab river.

Deputy Attorney general Golam Kibria appeared in the hearing for the state, while senior advocate Abdul Malek appeared for the accused.

## Hira wants to be computer engineer

Abdullah Omar Siraj Hira scored GPA-5 from the Ideal School and College, says a press release.

He is the son of retired police officer Sirajuddin and Syeda Dilara Bilkis, a housewife in Chittagong. He wants to be a computer engineer.

## TV sets, fans for Patuakhali jail

**A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

The government has delivered eight colour television sets and 65 electric fans to Patuakhali jail for prisoner.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury handed over these to the jail authorities at the Deputy Commissioner's office recently.

Jatiya Party (N-F) leader and Shahidul Alam Talukder MP were present on the occasion.

## Schools indeed!

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

No student from 121 high schools under Rajshahi Education Board (REB) passed in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations this year.

"Punitive measures against these schools are underway", said a source in REB.

The education ministry will serve

show-cause notices on the schools, asking them to improve their performance within one year. On failure, their monthly payment orders (MPOs) will be cancelled.

"Some other measures may also be taken against the schools", said the source.

Actions will also be taken against the schools from which over 80 per cent of students failed, he said.

## Satkhira Awami League falling apart

Non-formation of dist body blamed

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

Utter frustration is prevailing in the Awami League rank and file as a district committee has not been formed even three years after formation of a convening committee, party leaders said.

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina dissolved Satkhira district Awami League committee headed by Syed Kamal Bakht and Monsur Ahmed as president and general secretary respectively on August 11, 1998 for their alleged "anti-people" role.

In the same year, district committees of AL's fronts Chhatra League and Jubo League -- were also dissolved on the same charge.

On November 21, 1999, the AL chief formed a convening committee headed by Syed Kamal Bakht and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as its convenor and joint convenor respectively for 90 days and asked local

party leaders to form a district committee through a council. Kamal Bakht died in 2000.

Some of the leaders talking to this correspondent blamed some district and thana level leaders for non-formation of a district committee.

Leaders and activists at all levels are now frustrated as the party has virtually no activity, they said.

Lack of activity has given rise to intra-party conflicts at all levels, they said.

Leaders and activists in Satkhira town and in Shyamnager, Assassuni, Kaligonj, Kalaroa upazilas are now divided into two or three groups, they said.

An influential leader in the district preferring anonymity said central leaders should resolve the problem immediately. Otherwise, the party will face a serious setback while Jamat-e-Islami is gaining strength, he said.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

An open market of illegal logs...these logs, illegally felled in the Sundarbans, have been floated all the way to Nesarabad in Pirojpur district while law enforcers are on duty in the forest and in the route. These are being supplied to different areas of the country.

## A college campus free of student politics, smoking

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

The Alamgir Monsur Memorial College has been declared free of student politics and smoking.

The declaration was made at a recent exchange-of-opinion meeting on the campus, which also took some other decisions for development of the college and further improvement of academic atmosphere.

With principal Md Abul Kashem in the chair and Deputy Commissioner Md Safiqul Islam as the chief guest, the meeting was participated by educationists, politicians, social workers, officials

and guardians of students.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Khalilur Rahman, principal of K B College Marzia Begum, former principal of Teachers Training College Prof Nokarram Hossain, deputy director of secondary and higher secondary education, district education officer, and journalists were also present.

Speakers at the meeting highly appreciated the decision to make the college campus free of politics and smoking.

The college set up in 1969 after the name of Alamgir Monsur Minto, a student who was killed during the mass upsurge against the then Pakistani government in 1969.



PHOTO: STAR

Alamgir Monsur Memorial College in Mymensingh, declared free of student politics and smoking.

## Roadblock in Lalmonirhat as cops let the 'killer' driver go

**A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat**

Local people beat policemen and stopped traffic on the Lalmonirhat-Rangpur highway at Teesta bazaar for six hours as police released the driver of a bus after it ran over and killed a man.

Fertiliser trader Ashrafal Alam, 26, died under the wheels of a Burimari-bound bus from Dhaka on Monday, according to police and eye witnesses.

Locals caught the driver. On information, Traffic Inspector Mohammad Shaheb Ali and Havildar Enamul Huq rushed there. They saved the driver from public wrath and freed him.

At this, the people became angry and beat the police personnel, who were later rescued by a patrol police team.

The local people then put up road blockades disrupting traffic for six hours till 8 pm.

## Hearing on arms case against Hazari ends, verdict Aug 10

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni**

Hearing of the arms case against former Awami League lawmaker Joyal Hazari was completed in the District Sessions Judge's Court on Tuesday.

The verdict will be given on August 10, court sources said.

The case against Hazari and his associate Faruk Hossain Mridha was filed in 2001 by the then caretaker government following recovery of arms and ammunition from Hazari's house on August 17 during a joint by police and BDR.