

SNAPS

Parjatan motel at Bogra

BSS, Bogra

Construction work on a three-storey Bogra Parjatan Motel at Banani on the Bogra-Dhaka highway has been completed.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) implemented the project at a cost of Tk 4.9 cr. The motel has all modern facilities including 28 double rooms, two VVIP reception centres and dining rooms.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the motel in January last year. She is expected to inaugurate the motel later this month.

30 nabbed by joint forces

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Thirty persons were arrested on Friday night by the joint forces from different parts of the district.

Eight of them were arrested as they were found guilty during investigation in police cases while 19 others were wanted in police cases. Rest three were arrested in different cases.

R U W C executives

BSS, Rajshahi

Prof Dil Afroj Begum and Nila Rahman were elected president and general secretary (GS) of Rajshahi University Women's Club (RUWC).

The election was held recently at its annual general meeting (AGM) at the Jubbery Bhaban lounge, club sources said here on Saturday.

The other office-bearers are: Vice Presidents Prof Khanam Mamtaj and Prof Samsun Nahar Islam, Treasurer-Sima Hossain, and Assistant Secretaries-- Irin Banu Luchi and Monoara Rahman.

Strike call ignored by Khulna launch owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The indefinite countrywide launch strike called by launch owners has been ignored in Khulna as launches are plying on all the eleven routes in the region.

Launches left IWTA terminals as per schedule on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Defying the strike call, Khulna unit of Bangladesh Launch Owners' Association made all arrangements to ply their vessels on river routes in the southern region of the country.

At least seven to eight hundred passengers are travelling by launches every day, sources in Khulna Launch Owners Association said.

At least 30 tonnes of cargo are also being transported by launch owners, they said.

Confinement of provost

JUTA boycott of admin work on

JU CORESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) continued boycott of administrative functions following the August 10 incident at Shahid Salam Barkat Hall in which the provost and eight house tutors were confined for some hours by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists.

The boycott is affecting admis-

Two alleged members of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were killed by their rival group on Friday night.

The deceased were identified as Beltu, 30, and Shahar Ali, 45. Beltu, son of Thandu of village Puropara under Alamdanga upazila was picked up from his house at Sarajganj village under Sadar upazila and slaughtered just a few yards away.

The other victim, Shahar Ali, son of Jahan ali of village Bazdia under Jibannagar upazila was shot dead at Kashipur village under Jibannagar upazila.

Police said both the deceased were top criminals of the district and were wanted in a number of murder and dacoity cases.

Separate cases were lodged with the respective police stations.

Party stalwarts join campaign : Army deployment tomorrow

BNP relies on 'sympathy vote' as AL says 'our seat'

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

The ruling Four- Party Alliance and opposition Awami League are in a frenetic campaign in Netrokona-3 parliamentary constituency where by-election will be held on August 21.

The seat (Kendua-Atpara constituency) fell vacant following the death of BNP lawmaker Nurul Amin Talukder about three months back.

Political circles and people this correspondent talked to said there will be a fight between Alliance and Awami League, and the winner will have a small margin.

Both the ruling Alliance and the Opposition Awami League have close ranks and their central leaders have flocked here, holding rallies and doing door-to-door campaign seeking votes for their candidates.

Abdus Samad Azad, Motia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, Tofael Ahmed and Sultan Ahmed are here for the last several days, only leaving the area occasionally for any important work in Dhaka.

Awami League sources said they consider Netrokona-3 as "our seat" though its candidate lost to BNP in the last parliamentary election.

AL candidate in the by-election, Jobal Ali, had polled 93,742 votes against Nurul Amin Talukdar's 1,01,706 in the 2001 general election.

Talukdar's widow Khadija Amin, a housewife turned politician, expects 'sympathy votes' in addition to her husbands 'vote banks', BNP sources said.

Her campaigners are led by Forest and Environment Minister Shajahan Siraj, State Minister for Home Lutfulzaman Babar, Fazlul Haque Milon, Giasuddin Ahmed MP from Narayanganj and Mohammad Ali. The are joined by local leaders of Islami Oikkya Jote and Jamat-e-Islami.

Jubad Ali hails from Kendua upazila with 12 unions and Khadija is from Atpara with seven unions.

Four others are also in the fray, but running far behind the BNP and AL candidates. They are Ali Osman Khan of Jatiya Party (Ershad), Abu

BY-ELECTION

Netrakona-3





Locally-made crockery (left) and textile products (right) displayed at Saidpur Trade Fair.

PHOTO: STAR

A trade fair under private initiative

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Saidpur Trade Fair, first of its kind held under private initiative, has drawn appreciation from all quarters.

Organised by the Shaeed Zia Smriti Parishad to promote local products and cottage industries, the fair brought closer a large number of manufacturers and artisans from various sectors. Local business community extended their all-out cooperation.

The 150 stalls display home-made products ranging from costly and beautiful Jamdani, and Katan sarees to skillfully crafted wooden articles, jute goods and children's toys.

Shibir's case against 16

Gaibandha Govt College campus tense

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A tense situation is prevailing on Gaibandha Government College campus following filing of cases against 16 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Chhatra Front by Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) alleging attack on its peaceful procession on August 12.

Activists of Chhatra Front and Shibir are now holding separate rallies and processions blaming each other for the August 12 clash on the campus that left 13 students injured. The clash ensued when Chhatra Front and Shibir brought out separate processions on the campus demanding reduction of fees for honours examination.

After the clash, Gaibandha ICS President Syed Rokanuzzaman claimed that ten of its activists were injured in the "attack" on its procession by activists of BCL and Chhatra Front.

The ICS submitted memoranda to the college principal, the deputy commissioner, and the police superintendent for arrest of the attackers.

The Chhatra Front, an alliance of like minded student bodies including opposition Awami League's student front BCL is also bringing out processions on the campus protesting "Shibir attack" and calling upon students to boycott "terrorists" belonging to ICS.

They also demand arrest and punishment of ICS activists for "creating unrest on the campus".

Of those injured in the August 12 clash, Gopal Chandra Roy of BCL, AGS of the college Students Union Alamgir Kabir, Hafizur Rahman and Nur Mohammed of ICS are being treated at Gaibandha hospital.



10 hurt in Satkhira, process postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Garam sarker formation process was postponed in Ward No 6 of Fingri union under Sadar upazila following a clash between two candidates vying for the post of Gannya Mannya Bakti (elite) on Saturday.

At least 10 people were injured, two of them seriously, in the hour long clash between supporters of local Jamaat leader Maulana Yakub Hossain and a neutral candidate Laxmi Kanta Mondal.

Project implementation officer (PIO) Abu Bakar representing the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) postponed the gram sarkar formation process.

Both the groups used lethal weapons.

Seriously injured Yakub Ali and Dablu were admitted to Satkhira hospital in critical conditions.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Tension was prevailing in the area.

Intra-party rivalry: OC Attack during Satkhira AL's mass-feeding, 4 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two persons were seriously injured when they came under attack by miscreants at Awami League's mass-feeding programme in front of Satkhira Jail on Friday.

The mass-feeding was organised on the occasion of the 28th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibar Rahman.

The injured -- Golam Kibria 26, and his elder brother Abdul Razzak-- were admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

Security has been stepped up as the attack created tension in the area.

At about 1 pm on the same day, two activists of AL's youth front Jubo League were injured in another attack. The two -- Hasanul Islam (26) and Shahi Alam Apel (25) were also admitted to the Sadar hospital.

According to eyewitnesses, the mass-feeding came under attack by ten miscreants. They went on a rampage there, damaging utensils and burning banners.

The incident is a sequel to intra-party rivalry, said Kadar Baig, OC of Satkhira Sadar thana.

Abdul Khaleque, eldest brother of injured Jubo League activists, lodged an FIR accusing seven persons belonging to a rival faction in the party.

Eight-point demand of owners, workers

Transport strike in northern, southern districts called from Thursday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An indefinite transport strike in northern and southern districts begins on August 21 to press an eight-point demand of transport owners and workers.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of bus-truck owners and workers, held at Kushtia Rifle Club on July 19, sources in Rangpur Bus-Truck Owners association said here yesterday.

Leaders of transport owners and workers associations from all northern and southern districts attended the meeting, chaired by Shohab Uddin, president of Kushtia Motor Owners Association.

The meeting was attended by, among others, central leader of Bangladesh Paribahan Sramik Federation Shajahan Khan MP, former MP Ahlaj Abdul Gaffar, Baby Islam, Majibar Rahman and Abu Asgar.

Buses, trucks, autorickshaws and tank lorries will stay off the roads during the indefinite strike, the sources said.

Transport owners and workers in districts under Dhaka division will join the strike on August 23, they

Mirersarai, Sonagazi people claim Muhurir Char lands

30 including 10 cops hurt in clash, top officials meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Tension between the feuding people of Mirersarai and Sonagazi upazilas has subsided following a high-level meeting of officials of Chittagong and Feni districts in Muhurir Char project area.

The deputy commissioners (DCs) of the two districts, DIG and additional DIG of Chittagong region, police superintendents (SPs) and upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) attended the meeting, held on Friday night.

The meeting eased the tension in the area created after clashes over 'demarcation' of over one thousand acres of khas lands in Muhurir Char.

Additional DIG Naim Ahmed told this correspondent Saturday evening that the meeting took some decisions to avert further violence and maintain law and order in the Muhurir Char project area.

The meeting decided to resolve the problem by conducting a proper demarcation by the settlement department, he said.

Additional police forces from Chittagong and Feni have been deployed there, he said.

Sources said the UNOs of Mirersarai and Sonagazi and the DCs of Chittagong and Feni will meet separately on Tuesday (August 19) and Wednesday (August 20) respectively.

On Friday night, more than 150 armed people allegedly led by a UP chairman and a BNP leader of Sonagazi Upazila stormed into the project area and attacked the people there who hailed from Mirersarai, ensuing a clash.

The attackers torched at least 30 farmhouses, creating panic in the area. Police rushed to the spot only to face gunshots allegedly from the Sonagazi people, sources said.

However, police brought the situation under control.

At least 30 people including 10 cops were injured in the hour-long clash, police said.

Two cases were filed separately by Mirersarai and Sonagazi thana police under Speedy Trial Act, the Additional DIG also said.

Administration sources said the people of both upazilas have long been locked in a feud over demarcation of the vast khas lands that emerged from the Bay of Bengal.

Blank shots to remove road barricade

2 cops among 13 hurt in Gaibandha clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Fifteen people including two cops were injured when police swung into action to disperse a mob that barricaded the Rangpur-Bogra highway at Fasitola bazaar in Gobindaganj upazila Saturday night.

Police fired five blank shots and charged batons while the agitated people replied with brick-bats.

Eye witnesses said one Bakul Islam had dinner at a hotel at Fasitola bazaar and fell sick. His companions, joined by some local people, ransacked the hotel and some shop nearby.

Angered by this, local traders first filed a case with Gobindagnaj thana and then put up a barricade on the Rangpur-Bogra highway, disrupting road communication for an hour.

At about 9 pm, a police contingent rushed to the spot and charged batons on the people there to remove the barricade.

The agitated people pelted brick-bats, injuring policemen Shahidul and Abdus Salam.

Police fired five blank shots to disperse the mob. Thirteen people were injured in the police action.

Five persons were arrested from the spot.

Convict held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A convict was arrested with an LG Gun and six bullets from Kushobaria village in Sailkupa upazila on Saturday, police said.

Acting on a tip off, Langelbandh police led by Jakir Hossain caught Punchke Selim alias Selim from a house in the village.

He was awarded life imprisonment in an arms case recorded with Sipur thana in Magura district in 1998.

He was wanted in about ten cases filed with different police stations in Jhenidah, Magura and Rajbari districts.

Rape victim 'commits' suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Alleged rape victim and disabled grass-widow Lipi Khatun, 26, committed suicide by hanging on Friday at Moddho Kathuli village in Gabtoli upazila.

A case has been filed with Gabtoli thana against the alleged rapist Sadekul, his father Abdus Samad and Naruamala Union Parishad member Boniz Uddin.

Sources said, Sadekul, 28, of same area entered the house of Lipi and raped her on Monday at about noon, when she was alone in her room.

Her mother complained to Sadekul's mother and father. But they did not respond.

Later she complained to the Union Parishad. In a village arbitration, member Boniz and others fined Sadekul Tk 5000. But Sadekul declined to pay the fine.

Out of shame, Lipi committed suicide.

After the incident Sadekul and Boniz fled from the village.

Police recovered the body and sent it Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital morgue on Saturday for autopsy.