

## 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 Afroz 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 Jubbey Bhawan lounge, club sources said here on Saturday.

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

## Strike call ignored by Khulna launch owners

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

The indefinite nationwide 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 CORRESPONDENT**

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 Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists.

The boycott is affecting admis-

sion of students in 2002-03 academic session, sources said.

The confinement followed expulsion of three JCD activists from the hall for beating the manager and the caterer of the hall canteen.

After Sunday's incident, JUTA held a meeting and gave a seven-day ultimatum for punishment of persons involved in the incident.

On Thursday, the JU authorities formed a committee with Treasurer

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

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

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.

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 husband's "vote banks", BNP

sources said.

Her campaigners are led by Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj, State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar, Fazlul Haque Milon, Giasuddin Ahmed MP from Narayanganj and Mohammad Ali. They are joined by local leaders of Islami Oikya 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

Jafar Sabat of Krishak Sramik Janata Party, Krishak Mohammad Sadek of Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon and independent candidate Abdul Wahab.

The constituency has 124 voting centres, 77 in Kendua and 47 in Atpara. Of these, 78 are "vulnerable", sources in the administration said.

No untoward incident took place during campaign so far, they said.

Army will be deployed in the constituency tomorrow and remain there till the midnight of August 22.

They said adequate preparations have been taken to ensure a free and fair by-election.

## Party stalwarts join campaign : Army deployment tomorrow

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

**BY-ELECTION  
Netrakona-3**



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

## 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.

The recent flood could not dampen the spirit of Saidpur people, known for their hard work. The fair venue Saidpur Railway Maidan-- becomes lively with hundreds of people flocking there every evening.

Added attractions are marry-go-rounds, jatra, kawali and folksongs.

Owner of a stall Tantujasaid his profit from sale of home-made textiles was over Tk 20,000 so far.

Another shop owner thanked the organisers, saying visitors showed keen interest in cheap shoes at his stall.

The fair was inaugurated by BNP MP Amzad Hossein Sarkar on July 19. It will be closed tomorrow.

**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 Rokuzzaman 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.

The deceased were identified as Beltu, 30, and Shahar Ali, 45. Beltu, son of Thandu of village Puropura under Alamganda 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.

**Jafar Sabat of Krishak Sramik Janata Party, Krishak Mohammad Sadek of Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon and independent candidate Abdul Wahab.**

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They said adequate preparations have been taken to ensure a free and fair by-election.

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 Char and Feni districts in Muhurir Char project area 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

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 21st 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 demands include withdrawal of communication ministry's April 21 decision and BRTA's circular issued on July 10, cancellation of lease of BRTC buses, withdrawal of BRTC double-decker buses from inter-district routes, punishment to false license issuers, withdrawal of enhanced fees for driving licence, steps to check indiscriminate toll collection and alleged harassment of transport workers by police and ensuring security on roads.

## 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 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 Char 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 Additional DIG Naim Ahmed told

Additional DIG Naim Ahmed told

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 Fasitol 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 Fasitol 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 Gobindaganj 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 Saitkupa upazila on Saturday, police said.

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

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

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

His 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 to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital morgue on Saturday for autopsy.

## Two 'outlaws' killed in Chuadanga

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga**

Two alleged members of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBPC) 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 Puropura under Alamganda 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.

The mass-feeding was organised on the occasion of the 2