

SNAPS

Akhter Hamid Khan's death anniversary observed

BSS, Comilla
The fourth anniversary of death of Dr Akhter Hamid Khan, the founder-director of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, was observed here on October 9 in a befitting manner.

Dr Khan, the pioneer of Comilla BARD and an eminent social scientist, died in the Indiana state of USA in 1999.

Discussion, Quran khwani, miliad mahfil and special prayers were arranged to mark the day.

All five acquitted in Shamim murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Additional District and Sessions Judge's court here on Tuesday acquitted all the five accused in the sensational Shamim murder case.

The accused are Rimon, Mustafizur Rahman, Sohel, Atiqur Rahman and Zia.

The prosecution side failed to prove allegations of murder against the accused, Judge Mohammad Shafiqullah said in the verdict.

Shamim, a college student, was stabbed to death during daytime in front of Damurahat High School in Pabna upazila on February 11, 1999.

Police submitted charge sheet against the five. The court examined 25 witnesses in the case.

3 firearms, AK-47 bullets recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari
The army during a gunfight with criminals recovered three firearms and 58 bullets of AK-47 rifle from Bhoirata in Dhinigula upazila in the district Monday night.

But none of the criminals could be arrested.

In one week from October 6, the army recovered seven firearms and 400 bullets, according to sources.

Revised grading system in CU

Most students welcome but Shibir opposes

CU CORRESPONDENT

The revised grading in examination in Chittagong University has evoked a mixed reaction from students.

Most of the students this correspondent talked to expressed their satisfaction with the revised grading system.

But leaders of the Sadharan Chhatra Sangram Parishad (SCSP), a newly formed body floated by Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) from behind the scene, are still demanding scrapping of the grading system and revision to the previous 'class system' in examinations.

Some ICS leaders also expressed their displeasure at the revised system.

They have threatened to go for a

tougher action programme if the grading system is not cancelled altogether. They termed it 'controversial'.

Some students however expressed their reservation, saying, meritorious student will still suffer as difference of marks between 'Grade A' and 'Grade A-' is 10.

In the revised grading system, marks between 60 and 69 will be grade 'A', which will be considered as GPA 3.5.

Students of BBA Faculty have also demanded introduction of the grading system in their faculty. They have threatened to go for a movement soon for this.

The revised grading system is effective only for students of Science, Arts and Social Science

faculties.

Zaber, a third year student of History Department said the new system is "more student oriented" but will not properly judge merit. The system should be as in developed countries so that our degrees are recognised outside, he said.

Mizanur Rahman, a third year student of Marketing Department said grading system only for three faculties is a step motherly attitude towards the BBA Faculty.

He demanded immediate introducing of a unified grading system for all faculties.

The university reopens today after 15 days' vacation for Durga Puja and Shab-e-Barat. Classes and examinations will be held as per scheduled earlier, sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

The Mymensingh unit of Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Union brought out a procession in the town protesting police attack on a procession of striking unemployed and student nurses in Dhaka on October 8.

Nursing Instt students begin 72-hr strike

CU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Chittagong Nursing Institute (CNI) began a 72-hour strike yesterday demanding stoppage of appointment of nurses passing out from non-government institutes in government jobs.

Around 350 students of CNI also took out a procession from Chittagong Medical College (CMC), which terminated in front of Chittagong Press Club with a rally.

Speakers at the rally demanded that only nurses passing out from government institutes be appointed in government jobs.

They also condemned the recent police action on a nurses' procession in the capital.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Jony Kanti Dey, Lavlu Barua, Joinal Abedin and Kamruzzaman Joni.

Later, they held another protest rally on the CMC campus.

Conjoined babies die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Br'baria

The two conjoined babies born at Brahmarbaria town on Monday died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) in Dhaka, 15 hours after their birth.

The two babies with their bellies joined were born to one Shaheda Khatun at around 5:30 pm. They were sent to BSMMUH at about 5 am Tuesday.

Sources here said one of the babies was found dead when a doctor went for their treatment soon after admission. Within a few minutes, the other one also died.

Shahid Khatun is the wife of Jahirul Islam of Nabinagar. They live in a rented house in the town.

HSC examinee commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A student committed suicide after failing in the HSC examination this year.

The incident took place at West Sujankati village in Agailjhara thana on Monday.

Ashok Sarkar, who got grade 'A' in SSC, had appeared at the HSC examination from Agailjhara College, his family sources said.

When he came to know that he failed, he entered his room, locked the door.

Suspicious family members later broke the door and saw him hanging from the ceiling. They rushed him to the local hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

An UD case has been lodged with Agailjhara thana.

Deadly price for not supporting a ruling party leader

Tortured AL activist fighting for life with damaged eyes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An Awami League activist, tortured allegedly by a local BNP leader in Bagerhat, is now fighting for life at the Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Both his eyes have been damaged as soda and lime water were poured into those during torture, his family claimed.

His mother Rizia Begum has sent a written complaint to the Bagerhat police superintendent, seeking justice, they said.

He fell Saifuzzaman Shachhu as he did not work for Afzal Mallik, an alleged 'listed criminal' in Bagerhat Sadar, during the last Union Parishad election. Afzal had

contested for the post of Chairman of Dema UP.

Sachhu, 24, is at the KMCH under police custody as has been shown arrested under the Arms Act. His family claimed that Afzal's goons secretly kept a home made gun near his house and got him arrested.

Sachhu came home from Chittagong on Tuesday last, his mother Rizia Begum said. He was taken to the house of local BNP leader on Friday night. Armed goons tortured him there and poured soda and lime water into his eyes.

Sachhu's old father Moslem Sarder, a former UP member, was also beaten while he went to save his son. Chowkidar (night guard) Jalal Mallick also went to save them

but he was driven out by the goons at gun point, the mother alleged.

Some local people rescued and took him to Bagerhat General Hospital in a critical condition. He was later shifted to KMCH.

In her petition to the police superintendent, Rizia Begum alleged that Afzal Mallick is a 'listed terrorist' who maintains armed cadres. Afzal was arrested with two guns and bullets during the Operation Spider Web, but got bail with help of the Sadar thana officer-in-charge, she claimed.

Sachhu's mother, father and wife Saimayha have also appealed to the DIG for justice.

A case has been recorded in this connection, police said.

Diarrhoea kills 7 more in Bogra and Lalmonirhat

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Seven more people have died from diarrhoea and over 300 are suffering from the disease in Bogra and Lalmonirhat districts.

Our Bogra correspondent reported that the disease killed three persons in the last two days and attacked over 100 in Patgram upazila in the last four days.

The dead are Rupali Begum, 10 and Nazimuddin, 50, of Sardar Para village under Patgram Pourasabha; Alauddin Mia, 65 and Touhidul Islam, 4, of Dhabolsuti village and the pregnant housewife Mariom Begum, 25, of Jalangi village.

village.

Seventeen of the patients have been admitted to Sariakandi upazila health complex, they said.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that diarrhoea killed five people including a pregnant woman and attacked over 100 in Patgram upazila in the last four days.

The dead are Rupali Begum, 10 and Nazimuddin, 50, of Sardar Para village under Patgram Pourasabha; Alauddin Mia, 65 and Touhidul Islam, 4, of Dhabolsuti village and the pregnant housewife Mariom Begum, 25, of Jalangi village.

'NGOs should do more for poverty alleviation'

3-day meet begins in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day Odhikar and Unnayan Sammilan (Meeting on Rights and Development) began at the Muslim Hall in the port city on Tuesday.

Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University (CU) Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury inaugurated the meet. Earlier, the participants came to the meeting venue in a procession from in front of the Chittagong Press Club.

Poet Abul Momen, residential editor of the Prothom Alo, presided over the inaugural function. Shafiqul Islam, Director Operation of Action Aid, an NGO, its South-East Regional Co-ordinator Monzur Rashid, BITA Executive Director Shishir Datta and Chittagong unit president of ADAB Monwara Begum

were present as special guests.

The speakers said non-government organisations should do more to change the life of those living in abject poverty. Expansion and proper utilisation of micro-credit can alleviate poverty to a great extent, they said.

They said government efforts in an overpopulated country like Bangladesh can do little to change the life of those living in abject poverty.

Government development

programmes must be supplemented by NGOs through projects which will have far-reaching consequences. NGOs should not limit their activities to mere loan-giving and realising. They should see whether their loans really help the poor in changing their life and making the next generation literate and self-reliant, they said.

The inaugural session was followed by a discussion on "Our Healthcare in Juvenile Period" and a cultural function.

Water crisis grips Gopalganj town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

About one and a half lakh people of Gopalganj town have been suffering from acute crisis of drinking water.

People face the threat of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases as they are drinking river and pond water.

About five per cent people can avail of the water supply facility with only 1,900 connections.

Water supply is normal in the low-lying areas of the town.

Water crisis has been prevailing at Puran Bazaar, Monohori Potty, Saha Para, Madrasa Road, Bangabandhu Road, Thana Para, Kali Bari Road, Bina Pani School Road, Bepari Para, Natun Bazaar Road, Chowranghi Road, DC Road, College Road, Moddhy Para Road, Court Mosque Road, Bank Para, Mohammad Para, all residential areas and different offices including the court area.

A water treatment plant estab-

lished by the financial support of the Netherlands government supplies only 4 per cent of the demand. Six lakh gallons of water is the demand in the pourasabha area.

The water treatment plant sources told this correspondent that nine out of 12 pumps have become out of order.

Rust gets accumulated in the overhead tanks and pipelines hampering water supply.

Lack of necessary maintenance and negligence of duties of the concerned authorities also contribute to the creation of the crisis. They also complain indifference of the pourashava authority.

The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) Gopalganj sources informed this correspondent that the works of a new water supply project is in its last stage. On its completion within a year the water crisis is expected to be solved.

Sramik Dal activists ransack Ctg station manager's office

CU CORRESPONDENT

Some railway employees, reportedly belonging to Railway Sramik Dal (RSD), an employees union aligned to ruling BNP, ransacked the office of the station manager at Chittagong railway station Monday night protesting alleged non-allotment of a first class compartment for a first class

bound central leader Kabir Hossain in a mail train.

The unruly employees were led allegedly by their local leaders M Monjur and Mostafa.

They later forcibly occupied a compartment (No 222) for their leader.

No complaint was lodged with GRP police fearing further attack, railway sources said.