

SNAPS

'Name RU hall after Ila Mitra'

A RU CORRESPONDENT
The Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and other socio-cultural organisations have demanded naming of the fifth female hall after Ila Mitra.

They said that Ila Mitra was a leading figure in the Tebhaga movement, a peasants' movement, Santi movement and the independence movement during British rule.

Ila Mitra also played a pioneering role during the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

The hall's foundation was laid by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on December 21, 2003.

Blankets for 150 orphans

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Rangamati

The Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) donated blankets to 150 orphan students of two residential schools in Bilaichari and Kutukhbari on Monday last.

RHDC member and its Education Affairs Convener Usha Hla Roza handed over the blankets to the orphans at a simple function held on the school premises.

Bilaichari school's hostel superintendent cum headmaster Shakya Priya Barua, acting Primary Education Officer of the upazila Abdul Kader, RHDC Public Relations Officer Arunendu Tripathi attended the function, among others.

Man poisoned to death by wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Sarkhira

A man was poisoned to death by his wife at Islamkati village in Tala upazila on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Kamrul Islam, 26, of the village.

Quoting local police said Turgish Khatun, 18, wife of Kamrul Islam served poison-mixed meal to her husband and grand mother-in-law. Following consumption of the food both of them fell sick. Kamrul died on the spot while local people shifted immediately the old woman, Parjan Bibi, 65, to Tala Health Complex where she has been fighting for life, hospital sources said.

New body floated to save Patkeghata

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Sarkhira

A 71-member committee of Patkeghata Bachao Andolon Parishad led by Sheikh Jahurul Islam and Shahiduzzaman Tutul as its President and General Secretary was formed at a meeting held at Patkeghata bazaar on Thursday.

Sheikh Jahurul Haq, convenor of the organisation was in the chair while it was addressed, among others, by ABM Altaf Hossain, SK Nurul Islam, Advocate Mostofa Lutfullah and Sheikh Abdul Hai.

People from all walks of life floated the organisation to press home their 8-point demands to save Patkeghata, an important business centre.

Pneumonia claims 2 babies in Rajshahi

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Pneumonia claimed two children in Rajshahi city on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The dead include a six-month-old baby named Himalee of Gurudaspur village and a one-year-old baby named Shimul of Katakhali area.

At least 30 people, most of them children, are being taken to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) daily for treatment of pneumonia and other cold-related diseases, according to a child specialist at the RMCH.

Garo movement will continue till demands met, their leader says

'Scrap Eco Park project, give long term lease of forest lands to Garos'

JAHANGIR ALAM, Modhupur

The indigenous Garo people in Modhupur forest will continue their movement till the government scraps the Eco Park project there and fulfills their other demands.

"The simple Garo people have lost confidence on the authorities", Ajay Mree, President of Modhupur Adibasi Unnayan Parishad, told The Daily Star during a recent visit to the area.

"They (authorities) had stopped the wall construction work in July last year and the people believed in their words. But they attempted to build it again this year", he said.

"This government wants to evict the indigenous people from their ancestral homes", he said.

Albert Mankin, another Garo leader, said, "We have learnt from the Modhupur tragedy that the authorities want to evict the indigenous people."

"This movement is for our existence, we will not back out till our five-point demand is met".

Besides scrapping of the project, their demands include punishment of the killers of Garo youth Piren Slan, withdrawal of cases against Garo youths, transfer of the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent of Tangail and long-term lease of forest lands to Garo tribesmen.

The wall construction work was stopped.

Piren was shot dead on Saturday last when police and forest guards fired on tribesmen protesting construction of a boundary wall of the proposed Eco Park.

The government has planned development of an Eco Park under a Tk nine crore National Park Development Project on about 3000 acres of land in the forest, sparking protests from indigenous people living in the area for ages. They fear the project will displace them.

The killing sparked protests. The Garo tribesmen declared a seven day mourning programme, flew black flags atop houses, shops and other installations and barricaded the Dhaka-Tangail.

The wall construction work was stopped.

Tension is running high in Garo villages as they are holding small rallies and processions, ignoring alleged intimidation by ruling party youths.

Some people this correspondent talked to said a sense of insecurity is prevailing among the indigenous people in the Modhupur forest after ruling BNP activists threatened them against their movement against the Eco Park.

They claimed that the ruling party men, armed with firearms and sharp weapons, entered the Jalchatra-Pachish Mile forest village on Wednesday night and threatened the people to not to raise their voice against the project. Many villagers left homes.

The threat came after a autotempo carrying a group of BNP activists ran into a group of Garo people who were returning home after a procession on the same day in protest against the killing of Piren Slan, the locals claimed.

3 killed, 33 hurt in clashes in Manikganj, Lalmonirhat, B'baria

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three people were killed and at least 33 including 10 women and two children injured in clashes in Manikganj and Lalmonirhat and Brahmanbari villages on Wednesday.

Our Manikganj Correspondent reported that Akber Ali, 30 and Selim, 35, were killed and three others were injured in Boldhara village in Singair upazila when they were attacked by rivals.

Police said, Ismail, Joynal, Mastofa and some other supporters of Boldhara Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Khaled were attacked by supporters of former UP chairman Abdul Mazed while they were returning home from Boldhara Bazar Wednesday evening.

As they cried for help, Akbar Ali and Selim came out of their house nearby and tried to protect them. The attackers stabbed Akbar Ali and Selim. Akbar died on the spot.

When the news spread in the village, supporters of Khalek attacked and torched the house of Mazed at about 10.30 on the same night injuring three persons.

Critically injured Selim was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died on Thursday.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and arrested seven persons.

Local people said there may be clash again as both the influentials are trying to occupy the char land.

Police said they have taken steps to avert further clash.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reported that one Abdul Khair, 50 was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash over damage of a cropland by Khair's cow on Wednesday.

Police have been deployed at the village as tension mounted.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent reported that at least 20 people including 10 women and two children were injured in a clash between two groups over occupation of a newly

emerged shoal in Brahmaputra river at Char Nabin Nagar under Rowmari upazila in Kurigram on Wednesday.

The clash took place between supporters two influential persons Niru and Gamchha Sarder over occupation of a 25-acre char (shoal).

Five of the injured were admitted to Rowmari health complex.

Local people said there may be clash again as both the influentials are trying to occupy the char land.

Police said they have taken steps to avert further clash.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reported that one Abdul Khair, 50 was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash over damage of a cropland by Khair's cow on Wednesday.

Police have been deployed at the village as tension mounted.

The clash ensued after an alteration. Khair was taken to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital where he died at night. Three of the injured were also treated there, police said.

2 bandits nabbed, firearms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police arrested two armed robbers and recovered fire arms from their possession on Thursday.

Police said that police arrested Shahidul Rahman, 30, son of Matiur Rahman of Rair village in Sadar upazila. After his confession, police arrested Abul Hossain, 45, of Maniknagar village in Kalaroa upazila. Later police recovered a pipe gun, a gun and a shutter gun from their possession.

A case was filed with Kalaroa thana.

CU Journalism Deptt renamed

OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University (CU) authorities have renamed the Department of Journalism as the Department of Communication and Journalism from Wednesday.

The decision became effective following an order circulated from the Deputy Registrar (Admin) of the university.

Earlier, teachers and students of the department appealed to the higher authorities to rename their department.

After the renaming, students met with their departmental chairman Ali Asgar Chowdhury and exchanged greetings with him.

Square's donation to mental hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The Square Pharmaceuticals Limited, a leading pharmaceutical company of the country, donated medicines to Pabna Mental Hospital where an acute drug crisis was prevailing since stealing of costly drugs worth Tk 30 lakh from its store on December 25.

Square's General Manager (GM) Golam Rabbani handed over the medicines to the acting Director of the hospital, Dr AKM Abdus Samad Mia on Wednesday noon.

The director appealed to Square company for donation of Perkinel and Peridol tablets on January 4. The company responded to the call and donated the medicines promptly.

2 UP chairmen face no-confidence in Bhola

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Members of two union parishads (UPs) in Bhola Sadar and Charfassion upazilas have brought no-confidence resolutions against their chairmen for alleged corruption, embezzlement of money, wheat and misbehaviour with members.

According to an allegation submitted to the Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer, the Chairman of Ilisha union named Serajuddin embezzled Tk 3 lakh and 26 metric tons of wheat sanctioned for development work. He also misbehaved with the UP members, they alleged.

Transport owners and workers on Wednesday stopped inter-district bus service in 21 routes connecting Barisal protesting the alleged assault by some BNP activists in which two bus workers were injured at Muladi.

Talking to newsmen earlier, Mongol denied that the assault took place in his presence. He had also said that some people assaulted the lessee of Muladi ferry terminal for collecting toll at higher rates.

Transport workers claimed that they were assaulted for not plying vehicles during the countrywide hartal called by opposition Awami League on Saturday last.

He also denied any occurrence in presence of him. On other hand, road transport workers and owners sources claimed that a group of BNP cadres and associates of MP Mongol led by Humayun, nephew of the MP, the BNP cadres asked explanations from the transport workers for not running their vehicles during the Hartal called by opposition party on Saturday.

Bhola Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kabir Mohammad Asraf Alam has instructed the concerned Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to probe into the allegations.



Beautiful Bangladesh in the Bangla month of Poush with unending yellow mustard fields. These frolicking children in the beautiful field were snapped at Sonargaon in Narayanganj yesterday.

'Shun politics of hatred'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Islam Oikya Jote leader Fazlul Haque Armin MP has said politicians should shun "politics of hatred and jealousy" if they really want to do good to the people.

But the top leaders of the two major parties are breeding this hatred and jealousy and can not tolerate each other, he said while exchanging opinion with local journalist at Brahmanbaria Press Club on Thursday.

There will be no development till politicians join hands to solve national issues, he said.

The meeting was presided over by president of the club Md Mansur Kamal.

He said the Islam-loving Muslims of the country are not extremists but some vested quarters are trying to brand them as extremists.

One to suffer 20 years RI for possessing illegal arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A court here sentenced one person to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possessing illegal arms.

The victim was identified as Shafiqul Islam Shipu, 24, son of Moslemuddin of Sibamgari village under Lalpur thana in Natore district.

The court also fined the convict Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer six months more RI.

Pabna Sadar thana police recovered an Italian made pistol and five rounds of bullets from Shipu while conducting a raid in a night coach on January 30, 2001.

The Fourth Special Tribunal Judge of Pabna, Mohammed Shafiqul Rahman pronounced the verdict.

Scientific confce at BAU

Two-day annual scientific conference of the Bangladesh Society for Veterinary Education and Research (BSVER) was held at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium, Mymensingh on Wednesday, says a press release.

Chairman of Professor Dr Shaikh Hafazuddin, the inaugural function was attended by Professor Dr Md Daulat Hossain, acting Vice Chancellor and Convener, Council of Deans as chief guest.

The function was addressed, among others, by Professor Dr Md Abul Qasem, Chairman, organising committee, Professor Dr Md Rafiqul Islam, Secretary, BSVER and Professor Dr Md Jahurul Karim, Secretary, organising committee.

Veterinarian Scientist of international repute of Tohoku University, Japan Professor Dr Yutaka Nakai delivered the BSVER annual lecture.

Tk 12.50 lakh gold seized in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans recovered gold worth Tk 12,50,000 from three smugglers of two bordering villages in Sadar and Kalaroa upazilas in two days.

BDR recovered over 100 tolas of gold worth Tk 9 lakh while being smuggled out to India from the bordering village of Madra in Kalaroa upazila early Friday.

Two smugglers were also arrested from whom police recovered the gold. They were Abul Hossain and Rahman of Mirpur in Dhaka and handed over to police. The seized gold was deposited to the Customs Department.

A case was filed with Satkhira thana.



A destitute receiving a sweater from Nilphamari SP Chowdhury Abdullah-al-Mamun at the police line ground on Wednesday. All members of the district police force have donated their one day's salary for the cold affected people.

Nilphamari police beside cold-hit people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari</p