

SNAPS

Scholarships distributed

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Scholarships were distributed among the poor and meritorious students at Jhalakathi Government High School auditorium on Friday.

AKM Hashem-Motia Begum Memorial Educational Fund awarded the scholarships for the ninth consecutive year. Late AKM Hashem's family members donated in the memorial fund which was created in 1995, says a press release.

An Assistant teacher of Jhalakathi Government High School, Sushil Ranjan Borhal presided over the function while Prof M A Khaleque of Nalchhity Degree College was chief guest. Prof Abdul Jabbar, Chief Coordinator of Serve the People Degree College was present as special guest while Kh Khaliluzzaman and Sujit Kanti Bosh, Headmaster of Chamtia High School graced the occasion.

Mymensingh Press Club committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Advocate Md Mozammel Haque was elected secretary while Md Habibur Rahman Sheikh and Principal Reazul Islam were jointly elected vice presidents of the newly-elected Mymensingh Press Club executive committee.

The committee was formed at the club's annual election held at its auditorium on January 23.

Other office-bearers are: Joint Secretary-Mir Gulam Mustafa, Treasurer Jagadish Chandra Sarker, departmental secretaries Advocate ANM Bazulur Rahman, Md Nazrul Islam, Sultan Uddin Khan and Aminul Haque Jahangir. Members: Dr RR Islam, Professor AZM Mahmudul Hasan, Zilur Rahman Khan and Advocate Md Mosharrif Hossain.

'Step down showing respect to people's will'

15-point reflects people's demand, Samad Azad tells

Mymensingh AL public meeting



Awami League Presidium member Abdus Samad Azad addressing a public meeting at Mymensingh Town Hall ground on Sunday.



PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Awami League leader and former minister Abdus Samad Azad has said his party's 15-point demand reflects people's wish and urged the government to step down showing respect to this.

The front ranking AL leader was addressing a public meeting at Mymensingh Town Hall ground on Sunday, arranged by his party's district unit.

The BNP-led Four Party Alliance government failed in all sectors he claimed and said sooner it steps down, the better it will be

for the people.

He claimed that the immediate past AL government had improved law and order, maintained price stability and enhanced Bangladesh's image abroad.

Foreign investment had increased.

But the scenario changed after the present government took over as it includes anti-liberation forces.

"They believe in politics of killing and conspiracy. This has brought a slide in the law and order and tarnished the image of the country abroad", he told the meeting.

Killings and other crimes have increased, creating a suffocating situation. People now want relief from such a situation, he said.

People have no security of life and property and they are hard hit due to unabated price spiral of essentials.

The government wants to cling to power by suppressing the opposition. Its plan to increase the number of parliament seats is a plea to cover up its failure.

Abdus Samad Azad called upon the people to unite under the banner of Awami League and launch an out-governments.

Presided over by Mymensingh district AL President Principal Motiur Rahman, the meeting was also addressed by, among others, central AL leaders Afzalur Rahman Babu, Mahbulul Alam Shakil, B M Mozammel Haque; and district leaders Prof Dr. M Amanullah MP, Altaf Hossain Golandaj, Abdul Matin Sarker MP, Capt. (Redt) Mujib, Nazim Uddin Ahmed, M Shamsul Haque, Rashida Mohiuddin.

Chhatra League leaders Motahar Hossain Litu, Mukul Sarker, Nuruzzaman Khokon and Aminul Islam also addressed the meeting.

Private operators force BRTC buses off 8 Barisal routes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Private bus-mimnibus owners and workers forced BRTC buses off eight routes from Barisal city since Saturday.

Led by the Barisal-Patuakhali Bus-Mimnibus Owners Association, they also removed BRTC ticket counters from different stands on the same day, sources said.

Barisal City Corporation Mayor Mujibur Rahman Sarwar on Sunday night held a meeting with representatives of BRTC and the Association, but could not resolve the matter.

When contacted, Rashid Khan, central organizing secretary of BNP and Ziauddin Sikder, secretary of the Association claimed that the bus owners and workers stopped the service as BRTC violated its agreement with them.

It was agreed that BRTC buses will start from Nathullabad bus stand and not stop at Rupatoli stand for passenger. But they violated the agreement, they claimed.

BRTC Barisal depot manager Md Dulal said its buses stopped about 500 yards off Rupatoli bus stand and a ticket counter was set

up there as per approval of the Mayor. This is not violation of the agreement.

He said a few passengers are found at Nathullabad starting point and the buses have to ply with a handful of people on board if those do not stop near Rupatoli.

The private operators forcibly stopped the service on this plea to earn more money by making passengers hostage during the Eid, he said.

The private operators are conspiring to close down BRTC service in Barisal, Dulal alleged.

All indigenous people are with you, Shantu Larma tells Garo rally

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Joynagacha, Madhupur

NETRAKONA: Parbatta Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) chief Jotirindria Bodipriya Larma alias Santu Larma has said all indigenous peoples of the country are with the Madhupur Garo people in their fight against the proposed Eco Park to retain their existence.

He was addressing in a rally at Joynagacha GBC School ground in Modhupur upazila in Tangail on Sunday, arranged to protest the killing of a garo tribesman in police firing on January 3 while protesting construction of a boundary wall for the planned Eco Park in the forest.

Larma said the proposed Eco Park will destroy the ecological balance of Modhupur forest area and displace the Garo people. The plan has been taken up ignoring the indigenous people, who know better than anybody else how to protect the forest resources and develop the area. Such improper planning is threatening the culture and existence of the Garo people. He called upon them to continue their movement.

Larma claimed that the forest minister had promised to build the Eco Park taking the Garo people into confidence, but they were ignored.

There will be no park by destroying the ecosystem and displacing

the indigenous people there, he said.

Larma said indigenous people in other areas of the country are also suffering due to encroachment of their lands and rights by vested quarters, often backed by ruling party men.

Pankaj Bottyacharya, Presidium member of Gono Forum, called upon the government to stop the Eco Park project.

Presided over by Ajoy Mree, president of Adibasi Unnayan Parisad, Madhupur, the rally was addressed by, among others, PCJSS General Secretary Chandra Shekhar Chakma, Dhaka University teacher Mesbahuddin and Garo leader Sanjib Drong.



Cheating during degree examination at Barisal Government Women's College centre. Two examinees (left & centre) are seen collecting copies at toilets while an outsider (right) outside the boundary wall preparing copies for supplying inside. The photos were taken on Sunday.



PHOTO: STAR

Rangamati admin assures people of security

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Rangamati district administration held several meetings with tribesmen and Bangalees in different areas of Borkol and assured them of security of their life and property.

The move followed killing of two tribal youths on January 9 and 12, which created a panic in the area. The tribesmen alleged that they were killed by Bangalees.

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) SM Emdadul Huque, officials from the upazila administration, police and army personnel moved from village to village and addressed gatherings.

They urged the people to report to the administration and the law enforcers in case of breach of peace or any incident of violence. The administration will promptly take action against the criminals, they said.

"We could allay fear from the people", the ADM told the Daily Star yesterday.

"The administration will ensure security anyhow because it is their basic right", he said.

He said the main accused in the murder of Nilokhan Chakma, one of the two youths killed, has been arrested. The killers will be punished, he said.

LMG, 3 rifles recovered from outlaw Topu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police have recovered three rifles and one LMG (light machinegun) from two villages in Jhenidah, acting on the confession of Mofazzal Hossain alias Topu, arrested 'commander' of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML).

Topu, 38, of Bharatpur village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila, was arrested recently from Barandipara area in Jessore town by a team led by Jhenidah Police Superintendent Abdullah-Al Mahmud.

He made confessions during

interrogation. Police said they believe Topu is in possession of a good number of firearms.

The four firearms were recovered by digging soil at Kanharpur and Hairipur villages, police said.

Topu had surrendered with firearm at Jessore town hall on June 7, 1999 under the general amnesty declared by the then Awami League government. He got bail in 2002 despite being accused in four cases filed with different police stations in Kushtia, Jhenidah and Jessore.

He then joined PBCP (ML) as a 'commander' in the area.

Three injured in Barisal clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Three people were injured in clashes over enjoying 'Jatra' without ticket at a village fair in Andipar area of Uzirpur Police Station.

Gambling and obscene dance were shown in name of 'Jatra' in this fair, locals and police sources said. Outlaws are very active in this area.

Mizanur Rahman Fakir, producer of the obscene show and a leader of Sramik Dal and BNP-supported outlawed Kamrul group assaulted Shahid, a nephew of outlawed Zia group leader Mainuddin and his associates on Friday. This is because they wanted to enter the pandal without ticket.

Wearing masks Shahid and his associates ambushed Mizan early Saturday morning when he was returning home riding a bicycle after the 'Jatra' show.

The attackers cut the tendons of both the legs of Mizan and left him beside a road. Local people rushed him to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

In another incident Mamun Sikder of Zia group and Nurul Islam of Kamrul group and owner of the gambling board had a quarrel over share of money.

Supporters of both the groups clashed with each other on Saturday afternoon. Both Mamun and Nurul were injured. Nurul was rushed to the Uzirpur Health Complex and Mamun was treated elsewhere.

Two separate clashes were lodged with Uzirpur PS.

500 female students deprived of stipend

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

At least 500 female students of government and non-government colleges here are being deprived of their monthly stipend.

Initially, the authorities concerned asked the principals of non-government colleges to send names of female students of their colleges. Accordingly, the college principals submitted lists of female students who are reading in Class 11 and 12. They also filled up forms for stipends of female students.

All on a sudden on January 20 the college principals received an information that female students of non-registered non-government colleges do not fall in the category.

Thirty five students of Comilla Government College and 45 students of Comilla Women's College and 420 female students of other colleges in Sadar and other upazilas will be deprived of stipend from January to June of 2002-03 session.

College principal's room ransacked by JCD

100 shots fired in Manikganj factional feud: 9 hurt, additional police deployed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A tense situation is prevailing at Manikganj town after Sunday's chase and counter-chase between rival factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in which about 100 shots were fired, leaving at least nine people injured, one was killed.

The activists ransacked Manikganj Mahila College principal's room and damaged a computer, telephone and fax machine.

Additional police have been deployed in the town.

Some JCD activists are fleeing homes, party sources said.

The house of Manikganj correspondent of the Daily Arthonity Aminul Islam also came under attack. The activists sprayed about 30 bullets on the door, but none was injured, sources said.

Two of the injured shop owner Modhu and JCD activist Tota are

now being treated at Manikganj Sadar Hospital. Modhu was bullet-hit.

All these began at about noon on Sunday when activists of a faction, joined by some Juba Dal leaders, held a rally in front of Manikganj Press Club. JCD Manikganj district unit president Golam Abedin Kayser and Masud Parvez, among others, addressed the rally.

After the rally, some activists beat their party rivals who came out from the Mahila College after appearing at the BA examination. Clashed, they entered the toilet adjoining the college principal's room and closed the collapsible gate.

In presence of police, the gun-toting attackers entered the campus and asked the principal to open the collapsible gate. Afraid, the principal opened it.

They entered the principal's

room and ransacked it. Then, as they were trying to break open the toilet door, police swung into action and rescued three JCD leaders Mustafizur Rahman Prince, Ohidul Islam Biswas, Lotus and Binoy. The three were escorted home by police.

Some hours later, their rivals brought out a procession and proceeded towards the residence of BNP leader Mozammel Hog at Bandatia, who was shot and injured 12 days ago. They fired shots at random for about 10 minutes. They were looking for JCD secretary Showkat Jahangir Rana.

Shop owner Modhu, 45, was bullet-hit in the head, hand and leg in the random firing. He was rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

At about 6:30 pm on Sunday, JCD leader Tota was injured in attacks by rivals. He was also admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Tk 70 lakh goods looted from trawlers in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers attacked seven fishing trawlers and looted cash and valuables worth Tk 70 lakh in the Bay of Bengal on Monday, according to a fax message received from the International Maritime Bureau (IMB).

At least 20 fishermen were injured and six of them were admitted to the Patharghata Health Complex.

Pirates also hijacked two trawlers worth Tk 55 lakh with six crew and fishermen. They also threw 10 fishermen into the sea.



Barisal Shikhhok Karmachari Oikya Front, an organisation of teachers and employees, on a token hunger strike on the premises of Aswini Kumar Hall in the divisional city on Sunday to realise its 8-point demand.

PHOTO: STAR