CU admission forms submission date extended

CU CORRESPONDENT

The last date for distribution and submission of forms for admission into first year honours classes in Chittagong University for 2003-'04 Tuesday next.

Admission seekers can collect forms from four Agrani Bank branches including the campus branch during banking hours till Tuesday. They will have to submit admission forms to the respective deans and director's offices within 5pm on the same day.

A trifle leaves 60 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Clashes over a trifling matter left at least 60 people injured at Noorpur village in Nasirnagor upazila According to eye witnesses and

hospital sources, Kawser Mia threw a glass of water to Nopu Mia. This sparked off an altercation, leading This drew their supporters, who

fell upon each other. intermittent clashes lasted for about two hours, leaving at least 60 hurt. Thirty-nine of the injured were

treated at the upazila health there in serious conditions

30 held in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Brahmanbaria police in special drives in the district in the last two days arrested 30 people accused is different cases including four murder areas and 13 GR cases.

During the drives, they also recovered 58 bottles of phensidyl from a house Monkoshai village under Koshba thana and arrested

Vow to resist extortion, drug

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Traders, joined by people from all walks of life brought out a procession and held a rally in the town on Sunday protesting extortion and other crimes including drug ped-Initiated by the Hawkers Market

Trader's Association, it was supported by the Brahmanbaria District Traders Co-ordination Committee, Masjid (mosque) Committee and Jagat Bazar Trader's Association.

The processionists paraded the roads chanting various slogans against the crimes

The rally held at Jagat Bazar was addressed by, among others, Md Jahirul Haque, Md Osman Gani, Md Nannu Mia, Md Abul Foyez, Md Alauddin, Al-Haj Md Sirajul Islam and Hafez Md Ahsan Ullah.

Speakers at the rally vowed to build a movement against the crimes and called upon the people

On Friday, Jagat Bazar Traders Association brought out a 'whistle and stick procession' in the town

against extortion They chanted slogans like 'apply sticks against criminals' and 'crush dens of drug peddlers'.

They also protested the murder of goldsmith Gautom Talpatra, killed by foll collectors on February 3.

Raj Punnah festival begins in Bandarban today

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Raj Punnah, the biggest colorful traditional tribal festival of Bomoung circle in Bandarban begins here

This will be the 129th festival, which began in 1873 when Raj (King) Khong Hla Prue ruled the

The festival will begin when Bomoung King Aung Šue Prue Choudhury will sit on the throne at 9-30 in the morning, Then all the headmen' (Mouza chiefs) will show their ceremonial respect to the King

and deposit taxes. After tax collection, a traditiona dance will be in honor of the King and distinguishes guest. Grand feasts and other programmes are

arranged on the occasion. The colourful Raj Punnah festival attracts quests from home and

abroad since its beginning. Chiefs of Chakma, Bomoung and Moung tribes are widely regarded in the Chittagong Hill

Tracts for their benevolent deeds.

Tanguar Haor to be opened for plunder again?

One group backed by a minister wants its immediate lease, the other for permanent steps to protect it

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

The fate of Tanguar Haor in Sunamganj, a Ramsher site and the country's second biggest waterbody with a rich bio-diversity, has become uncertain again because of a tug of war between two influential groups.

One group backed by a minister wants the haor to be leased to an investor within a "short time", which, sources claim, will give the scope for its plunder again.

The others, backed by a state minister, the minister in charge of Sunamgani district and the district administration says it is not possible to lease it within a short time because this will be arbitrary and open the door for plunder. They claim that the group which suggests its lease in a "short time" wants that to allow a local ruling party lawmaker to take the chance and lease it.

They said the suggestion to lease it in a short time has created a commotion among people around the haor and district officials, who stopped the plunder for the last few months by deploying BDR, police and Ansar under supervision of

"It is not possible to do the job (leasing) within a short time because fresh tender has to be floated for selecting investor", an

"The other option is to select some one without any bidding, which will open it up again for plunder

Besides, handover of the huge waterbody to a private investor is "contradictory to the spirit of preserving its bio-diversity", he added.

The official said the district administration has stopped indiscriminate plunder of fish and others resources by deploying law enforces with approval from the ministry.

Sources said the administration's steps has been highly appreciated by all quarters in the district as well by high-ups in the government, who want continuation of the vigilance till the end of current dry season and a permanent arrangement is made for preservation and development of the waterbody as a

The district administration's step has stopped four years of plunder.

The people want that the authorities take strict measures to protect the over 3868-acre haor, a sanctuary for 60,000 birds of different species and 140 varieties of sweetwater fish. Besides, over one lakh guest birds flock there during

A three-member parliamentary sub-committee on the Ministry of

Forests and Environment, after visiting the haor last month, had suggested handover of the waterbody to an investor before end of the three-year period for which it was placed under the disposal of the environment ministry by the land ministry. The period ended on February 10.

The committee also put forward a 7-point suggestion to protect its

Led by Nazimuddin Alam its other members were Hafij Uddin Ahmed and Kolimuddin Ahmed After its visit to the haor the sub-

committee sat at a meeting with Sunamgani district administration officials and professionals' groups at Sunamganj Circuit House. Speakers in the meeting opined

for formation of a special force comprising BDR, police and Ansar to ensure proper supervision of the The committee's suggestions

include selection of the highest bidder as the investor and inclusion of two representatives from the ministry in the proposed haor maintenance body, raising the investor's contribution from 7.5 per cent to 15 per cent to the haor development fund, planting of one lakh saplings by the investor instead of 25 000

The committee also resented that an investor could not be selected even after floating of tenders three times earlier, making its fate uncertain during the last few years.

When contacted, the local ruling party MP, Nozir Hossain, who owns a fishery project, said the earlier decision of the Environment Ministry to select an investor is right because this is within the provisions of the Ramsar programme.

Tender was floated a year ago but the process was suspended as only three bids were submitted, reportedly by Nozir Hossain's men.

Talking to this correspondent over phone, Nozir Hossain said the haor was plundered in the last five years and demanded punishment of the plunderers.

. Taguar Haor was declared an Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) in 2000 and was taken up as a Ramsar site.

But, implementation of the Ramsar project remained uncertain due to indecision of policymakers and failure in selecting financia



Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiib Medical University Vice Chancellor, BMA President and DAB Chief Advisor Prof Dr M A Hadi examining a baby while others look on at a free medical camp at Rasulpur High School in Gafargaon, Mymensingh on Friday. Hadi sponsored the camp in collaboration with DAB, where 13,000 patients got free service.

JCD activist held for rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist was arrested on Friday on charge of torturing a female Secondary School Certificate (SSC) candidate.

Morrelgani thana police arrested Rubel Fakir for torturing the female SSC candidate, daughter of Saidur Rahman, a cloth merchant and office secretary of the upazila unit of the party.

According to FIR lodged on Thursday night, the JCD activist and four of his associates abducted the girl on Wednesday noon and confined her in a room of Paradise Library. Rubel raped her at arms point while his accomplices took snap shots of rape scenes. They forced the girl to sign on blank stamps. Afterwards, they set her free on Wednesday night.

Her Awami League leader father Saidur Rahman lodged FIR naming Rubel Fakir and municipality JCD president Riazul Islam as accused.

Police arrested Rublel and recovered the film containing nude

Meanwhile, the victim made two abortive attempts to commit suicide. She is now undergoing treatment in a private clinic in Bagerhat town.

Jubo Dal council held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The biennial council of Mohammadpur thana Jubo Dal was held on the premises of a local high school on Sunday

The council formed a 71member committee with Md Kabirul Bashar, Mizanur Rahman and Tarikul Islam Tara as president. secretary and organising secretary respectively.

Verdicts not delivered in court found written

Ministry files case against Asstt Judge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An assistant judge, instead of pronouncing verdicts in court, left those written in files after his transfer and handover of charge.

This has been revealed in an official investigation, court sources said here yesterday.

The verdicts were on four cases (No 71/97, 39/01, 93/2000 and178/98) regarding government land. The assistant judge was trans-

ferred to Cox's Bazar from Assamuni upazila. He had handed over charge to another Assistant Judge on March 21, 2002. But before his departure after

charge handover, he wrote the verdicts.

This came to light when the lawyers concerned knew about the

verdicts from others, which were not

pronounced in the court but shown pronounced Advocate Shahidullah (2) lodged a complaint to the Satkhira District

and Sessions Judge against the assistant judge The anomaly was detected after records of the cases were seized from Assassuni Upazila Assistant

Judge's court on orders from the District and Sessions Judge. A report was sent to the ministry. The ministry initiated a depart mental case (no 02/2002) against

the Assistant Judge and asked Additional District Judge GMS Farid to probe the matter.

He recorded statements of four people including advocate Shahidullah (2) and completed the probe on Sunday. The report will be sent to the ministry soon, the sources said.

their nine-point demands by holding

a press conference. Demands

included resignation of the vice

chancellor and security of life of

students on the campus. JCD

threatened a greater agitation

against the administration for failure

Reopening of RU demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Progressive Teachers' Association (PTA) of Rajshahi University (RU) have demanded immediate reopening of the university.

JCD demanded this through a statement signed by its president Motiar Rahman and general secretary Aslam Reza on Saturday.

The statement blamed the administration for patronising the Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres who created violence on the campus on January 13. On January 22, JCD submitted

of realisation of demands. PTA complained in a press release that the university administration formed a liaison committee to reunite the feuding groups, but failed. Signatories to the press state-

ment were PTA Convennor Prof Entajul Haque, Prof ABM Jahirul Haque, Prof Abdul Khaleque and

3-day CHT road blockade from Feb 22

CU CORRESPONDENT

'Fight for Equal Rights in Chittagong Hill Tracts," an organisation of non-tribals has taken up a 3-day road blockade programme in three hill districts from February

This was announced at a meeting held at a community centre here on Saturday.

The programme will be held in Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban on February 22, 23 and 24 with a view to establishing equal rights for non-tribals in CHT. Bandarban Press Club President Professor Osman Gani presided over the meeting while CHT Development Board Chairman Wadud Bhuiyan MP, was chief

The meeting demanded suspension of Regional Council . Chairman Santu Larma and Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni Śwapan Dewan.

Ekushey book fair begins in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A nine-day Ekushey book fair marking the International Mother Language Day began at Laldighi maidan here on Saturday.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury opened the fair organised by the corporation. Fair convenor M Monzurul Alam presided over the function. Noted Physicist Professor Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam was present as chief guest.

Among others, Professor Di Shouran Biswas, journalist Ataul Hakim, Chittagong Bar Association President Ibrahim Hossain Babul and CCC Chief Executive Officer Md Abul Bashar addressed the meeting.

A cultural function followed the

2 kidnappers get 14 years in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two youths were sentenced to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for kidnapping a girl from Jagdal

Alamuddin and Nasiruddin, son of Shafiuddin of Jagdal village. They were also fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more RI.

The convicts were Hasan, son of

Swapna 13, daughter of Khabir Hossain of the same village was kidnapped from her house on May Judge of Woman and Child

Repression Prevention Court No 2 Md Sayedur Rahman pronounced the verdict on Sunday acquitting two others of the charge.

Hemp a cash crop in Brahmaputra shoals! Tk 3000 to Tk 4000 earned from a single plant: 3000 kgs

Hemp plants ready for harvest at Kholabari Adarsha Gram under Fulchhari upazila, Gaibandha

likely yield this year: law enforcers protect growers

they earn many times more from

hemp cultivation than from other

traditional crops like paddy, jute

and vegetables, which is also

uncertain because of frequent

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Hemp (ganja), a banned narcotic, is the main cash crop for a large number of people in Brahmaputra shoal areas in Gaibandha Sadar,

Fulchari and Shaghata upazilas.

Unbelievable though, they earn Tk 3,000 to Tk 4000 from each of the hemp plants, now being cultivated in vast areas. Each plant produces two to five kilograns of

It is the peak season now for hemp (hashish) harvest, which continues during January-February. Nature blessed them this year.

They are happy with a "bumper production" because of less Narcotics traders and money-

lenders provide the farmers with loan and buy the product. They collect the plants from

During a recent visit by this

8000 to Tk 10000 per kilogram.

Cultivation of the illegal crop is more in shoal areas under Fulchari and Shaghata upazilas. According to a local assessment, farmers of charland are expecting a production of about

3000 kilogram of finished hashish worth about Tk three crore this In remote shoals, hemp is now being cultivated almost commercially as a seasonal crop allegedly

> ers and local influentials, sources The plants are sown in

under the protection of law enforc-

October-November. Law enforcers and Narcotics Control Department men rarely visit the areas due to lack of adequate transport facilities and

The main areas of cultivation

Shunjair, Baraikandi, Jamirer Char, Gajaria, Arendabari and Fazlupur under Fulchari upazila: and Haldia, Kumargari, Patilbari Digholkandi, Kanaipara under

PHOTO: STAR

because of poverty due to recurrent floods. Many of the landless and

> and money lenders to go for this illegal production. Local chowkiders (guards) of Union Parishads look after the

> This correspondent attempted everal times to talk with district Narcotics Control officials, but the

A security guard there said the district officer normally stays at Rangour and comes to Gaibandha

Appointment of

teachers in CU

BNP-backed

office was found under lock and

100 members boycott **Barisal Bar dinner**

AL backed panel bags 17 posts, pro-alliance panel 7 in Bar Assoc polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 100 members of Barisal District Bar Association boycotted its annual dinner on Saturday, protesting what they called violation of its 125-year-old tradition in making the chief guest.

Sarwar MP attended the function as chief guest. Sarwar is also a members of the Bar Association. Invitation to Sarwar and the boycott created a commotion among members ahead of the

District BNP President and

Mayor Advocate Majibur Rahman

Bar Association election, held on Sunday. Sources said, many apolitical members and those supporting opposition political parties had opposed the decision taken by the Bar Association Secretary to invite a Bar member to be the chief guest at the dinner.

Usually, the District and Session Judge is made the chief guest, they said

When contacted, advocate Nazrul Islam Razon, outgoing

'Govt-NGO coordination

needed to protect

Sunadarbans'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Lack of co-ordination among

government agencies and non-

government organisations

(NGOs) is the major obstacle to

conservation of the bio-diversity

a discussion meeting here, held

on Sunday in observance of the

Suandarbans Day. Swadesh, a

local NGO organised the discus-

role to play in increasing govern-

ment's revenue, but this potential

is not exploited, Mohadev

Chandra Dutta, an executive of

Swadesh said in a paper pre-

protecting the bio-diversity

NGOs can help in a big way in

sented at the discussion.

The Sundarbans has a vital

This was stated by speakers at

of the Sundarbans

secretary of the Bar and district BNP secretary, told The Daily Star that there was no constitutional bar to invite a Bar member to be the chief guest at the annual dinner. Earlier, advocate Abdur Rahman

Biswas and advocate Abul Hasnat Abdullah, both members of the Bar, were honored by the organization, he claimed. But advocate Manabendra Batobayal, outgoing president of the

Bar refuted this and said, "A 125-

year-old tradition is nothing less than a constitutional provision" He said Biswas and Hasanat were never made chief guest at annual dinner of the Bar. They were

given receptions. In the polls, the pro-alliance panel got seven posts including that of the president. Shakhawat Hossain Jummon was elected president. The pro-opposition panel bagged the rest of the 24 posts including that of the general secretary. AKM jahangir alam was elected general secretary.

because government efforts are

not enough, he said. NGOs are

preparing an action for this, he

built for protecting the world's

largest mangrove forest, he

A mass awareness should be

NGO leaders Asil Kumar

Majumder Anisur Rahman and

Urs at Kutubdia

The fourth annual Urs and Fatiha Sharif

of Hazrat Allama Shah Abdul Malek

some journalists also spoke.

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detainee escapes: Cop suspended STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna A police officer was suspended and

Sub-Inspector Abdur Rahman, a duty officer of Khulna thana was suspended and closed to the police line as Amir Hossain, an accused in a murder case escaped from the

3 killed by bus

two others injured in road acci-

dents on Magura-Mohammadpur and Magura-Langalband roads yesterday. Police said a pickup van hit a

Kamlapur village in Sreepur upazila. They were admitted to

Akter Hossain, 35, of Baniabohu village in Mohammadpur upazila was knocked down by a bus at Binodpur.

demanded CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctq Chittagong University (CU) unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has demanded appointment of BNPbacked teachers in different key

JCD demanded this at a meeting with the university administration led by its Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury at his office on Saturday.

JCD also appealed to the

authorities to allot separate blocks for their activists at all the residential halls. Among others, Proctor Professor Mazibur Rahman, Chhatra Dal President Md Selim, General Secretary MR Milton Chowdhury were present in the

closed to Khulna police line on

charge of negligence of duty on

thana one hour after his arrest by the Detective Branch (DB) of police from Skidghat.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Three persons were killed and

rickshaw-van at Boroichara on the Magura-Langalband road killing Bhadu Mian, 50, and his younger brother Kutub Mian, 25, of Nama village in Rajbari district. Two others injured are Alim, 22, and Saiful, 30, of

Alkutubi Muhiuddin Azmi (R) will be held He died at Magura Sadar Hospital.

Dariampur Health Complex. In the other accident, bicycle rider

at Kutubdia in Cox's Bazar on Thursday. Milad mahfil, zikir, jiarat and akheri munajat have been arranged.

haghata upazila. The farmers said they are compelled to cultivate hemp

marginal farmers said they are encouraged by local influentials

crops under monthly payments