NATIONAL

SNAPS

Ingilab Editor-Publisher,

newsman

sued

RU CORRESPONDENT Rajshahi University Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Motiar Rahman has sued the Editor-Publisher and the university correspondent of Daily Ingilab on Wednesday.

He filed the defamation case against them in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Rajshahi for 'filing a report on February 15 which damaged JCD's image and fame'.

RU teachers condemn police action during hartal

RU CORRESPONDENT One hundred and thirty teachers of the university in a joint statement have condemned police action on women Awami League (AL) leaders and activists during hartal recently.

Signatories to the statement are Progressive Teachers' Association convenor Prof Entajul Haque, former vice chancellor Prof Abdul khaleque, Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, teachers' association president Prof Khashru, Prof Anando Kumar Prof Hasibul Alam and Prof Ansar Uddin.

20 yrs RI for polls violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

One person was sentenced to 20 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for trying to mar election by creating violence

Banaripara police arrested Ibrahim Majhi from late Kalu Rari's house and recovered one shot gun along with 45 rounds of ammunition on February 26, 2003. Ibrahim confessed to police that he tried to mar the polls as a mercenary of Banaripara Union Parishad chairman candidate Abul Kalam Azad

Banaripara thana Officer-in-Charge lodged a case against him under Arms Act on February 27, 2003 and charge sheeted him as the lone accused

The Special Tribunal No 6 of Barisal convicted Ibrahim Majhi under two different sections of Arms Act on Tuesday. Both terms of punishment would be executed simultaneously, according to Tribunal Judge Asaduzzaman's verdict

11 convicted in kidnap, murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

Tanguar Haor to be leased for plunder again

Environment ministry asks dist admin to lease the water body to a lone bidder within short time

The lone bidder is Inland Fishery

Ltd owned by ruling party lawmaker

district BNP. Nozir Hossain is the

present Managing Director of Inland

pany uses two addressed in its

letterhead pad --one showing the

address at 86, Indira Road, Dhaka

and the other at 14, Tushon,

Shulaghar, Sunamganj with the

farm nor a fishermen's co-operative,

Besides, it is neither a registered

The Inland Fishery was in pos-

It leased Tanguar Haor for 1401

session of the water body earlier as

lessee, showing different persons

Bangla year at Tk 29,47,400 and for

1402 Bangla year at Tk 32,42,184,

showing Nanikanta Barman as its

Managing Director. From the year

1403 to 1405, it leased the haor by

showing Mokbul Hossain (Nozir

telephone number 02-9133840).

the sources claimed.

as its managing director.

Sources claimed that the com-

Fishery.

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

A letter from the Ministry of Environment and Forest to the Sunamganj district administration to lease the Tanguar Haor in a short time has surprised officials there and created a commotion among its development. The Tanguar Haor stakeholders and local people. was declared a Ramsar site in 2000. If leased in a short time, the vast

water body with its rich fish resources and bio-diversity will land in the hands of the lone bidder, a private fishery farm, and open up the scope for plunder as before, the district administration has said in its reply sent on Tuesday. It has sought fresh directives in this regard, sources said.

The 3868 acre haor, the second largest water body, home to 60,000 birds of different species and 140 varieties of sweet water fish. is now being protected by a joint force of BDR, police and Ansar deployed by the Sunamganj district administration as it could not been leased in

the last three years. This move against its plunder has been lauded by all sections of people, sources there said.

The ministry's letter followed a report by a sub-committee of the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment Ministry, which visited the haor on January 21. The district administration's

letter said there will also be gross Hossain's close relative) as its manirregularities if the haor is leased in aging director. The lease money was a short time and suggested continu-Tk 35.66.402. Tk 43.15.350 and Tk ation of its protection under the 39,23,045 in the three years. The existing system till a permanent lease period is counted as per Bangla arrangement is made for implemencalender, from Baishakh to Chaitra. It was widely alleged that the tation of the Ramsar Programme for

Inland Fisherv broke terms and conditions of the lease at times and plundered fish and other resources including trees of some rare spefrom Sunamgaj-1 Nozir Hossain, On November 2, 1998, the land who is also the General Secretary of

ministry, which controlled the water body at that time, in a letter cancelled the lease, terming the then lessee "a farm in name only". Later, in 1999, the ministry cancelled the lease for unauthorized sub-leasing.

Since then the huge water body was left uncared, to be plundered as the government failed to lease it.

After declaration of the haor as a Ramsar site, a body styled Tanguar Haor Management Committee was formed, which floated tender for selecting an investor to implement the Ramsar programme.

Only three proposals were submitted. All these were either by Nozir Hossain or his men, the sources claimed.

This game of floating tender and submitting bids continued till last year, keeping open the scope for plunder by a vested group

On May 18 last year, the Tanguar Haor Management Committee sent the bid documents to the Environment Ministry without selecting Inland Fishery as the investor. The committee opined that, none of the proposals was acceptable. Things remained undecided.

force comprising BDR, police and Ansars was deployed in the vast haor to stop the plunder. Different quarters lauded the

attempt, which angered the looters. The three-member parliamentary sub-committee comprising Nazimuddin Alam, Hafij Uddin Ahmed and Kolimuddin Ahmed Milon after its visit held a meting with district officials and representatives from different professional groups at Sunamganj Circuit House. Speakers at the meeting sug-

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg sted continuation of supervisior of the haor by the joint force to Eighteen admission seekers will vie for each seat in Chittagong University (CU) admission test in first year honours course for 2003-'04 session. protect its resources and the biodiversity till a permanent arrangement is made to implement the Ramsar programme The haor was declared an

Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) in 2000. Implementation of the Ramsar project remained uncertain due to the indecision of the policymakers and failure in selecting financial investors.

No cheating in | Feb 13 incidents in Syedpur BNP MP, 23 party men sued by AL Teachers and officials of the district

League Labour Secretary and

district Sramik League President

Aktar Hossen Badal and seven

party men accusing them for dam-

aging the car and attempting to kil

against 16 activists of Chhatra

League and Jubo League, student

Amzad Hossen denied the charge

that he had driven his car through

the AL procession. He said he

incidentally faced the procession

while going to attend the Janaja of

former chairman of Khata

Modhupur Union Parishad in

damaged my car and made an

attempt on my life. BNP activists

"The AL activists attacked and

Syedpur.

Another case has been filed

Amjad Hossen.

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A case has been lodged against BNP lawmaker from Syedpur Amzad Hossen Sarkar and 23 party men accusing them for ransacking the business office of local Awami League leader Obaidur Rahman on February 13 on the eve of AL's

and youth fronts of AL. countrywide hartal Police have arrested AL leader Aktar Hossen Badal and party man The manager of the business firm lodged the case on Wednesday Md Idris Ali, president of the loca with a Magistrate Court in chambei Nilphamari, which fixed March 31

On Sunday last, AL and Jubo for hearing. eague brought out a procession It was alleged in the case that the but it was dispersed by police. BNP MP drove his car through an AL BNP also brought out a broom procession brought out to drum up procession protesting what they support for the party's hartal on the called AL's said bid to kill Amjac next day (Saturday Feb 14). Hossain Sarkar. When contacted yesterday,

But BNP refuted this and said Amjad Hossen's car encountered the processions incidentally and AL precisionists led by Aktar Hossain Badal damaged the car and made an attempt on his life.

Awami League alleged that after the incident, BNP workers led by Amzad Hossain Sarkar attacked and looted Aktar Hossen Badal's business office 'Shyamoli Poribohon' and Sramik League office in the town.

Earlier, Ämzad Hossen Sarkar's showed utmost in the face of car driver Md Asraf lodged two attack", he said. cases against Nilphamari Awami



Female students brought out a procession in Satkhira town on Thursday protesting cancellation of women's volleyball competitions in Assussuni and Kaligang

'Jamaat stand is against women's freedom'

Female students protest cancellation of women's volleyball

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Several hundred female students from Assassuni and Kaligonj upazilas brought out a procession at Satkhira town on Thursday protesting cancellation

The students under the banner of Sachen Nari Samaj (conscious women) paraded the streets chanting anti-Jamaat slogans, held a rally in front of the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office and handed over a memorandum to DC AYM Ekramul Hag for hol meets The rally was addressed by Shvamali Rani Mondal Yasmin Nahar and Ishita Rani Mondal. The Jamaat action is against women's freedom, they said. They also held a press conference at Satkhira Reporters Club.



Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran at a civic reception given to the visiting delegation.

'Help boost Bangla-UK ties'

Visiting Tower Hamlets Mayor tells Sylhet reception

Environmental project opens in Bashkhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Thursday

kilometre south of the port city.

The Ministry for Forest and Environment

Mayor of Tower Hamlets Borough Council of London Abdul Aziz Sarder receiving a crest from Sylhet City areas

One lakh to be benefited Forest, Chittagong region, presided over the opening ceremony while Md Shamsur Rahman of the Department of Wildlife and Bio-

A Tk 5.29 cr project for preservation of environment and bio-diversity diversity, Project Director and opened in Banshkhali upazila on Divisional Forest Officer of Wildlife Preservation Department, State Minister for Forest and

Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury opened the Natural Environment/Bio-diversity Preservation and Development Project as chief guest at Jalodi, 60

project on 1,700 hectares of land of the reserved forest at Bamerchhara and Danerchhara benefiting one

Executive Engineer Md. Abdur Rashid, local Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Noor Md. Majumder, municiimplements the pal administrator Quamrul Islam Hossainee, Chittagong (south) district BNP General Secretary Professor Shahidul Alam Chowdhury and Upazila Engineer lakh people in the surrounding volley bal Saniul Haq spoke tions at the two upazilas follow-BSS reports: The main features of the project are a hanging bridge, ing alleged obstruction by Jamaat-e-Islami. picnic shades, a rest house and a The meets were scheduled to be suspension bridge at Dudchara held yesterday but cancelled earlier intersection, cottage, panoramic by the local administrations as local view tower, floating platform for fishing, safe home for aquatic birds, Jamaat leaders termed women's volley ball 'unislamic'. safe breeding centre for vulnerable animals and boundary walls.

Chittagong, Tapan Kumar Dey,

Rajshahi Barendra Multiple Project

Superintendent Engineer Md

Mozaher Ali, SM Abdul Mannan

The university authorities received 48,465 forms against 2,700 seats in 33 departments and o institutes. The highest number of 52 applicants will compete for each seat in the Faculty of Law. The faculty received 5,237 forms against 100 seats, university sources said.

Commissioner on Wednesday. DC Md Younusur Rahman was in the chair The speakers included Police Superintendent ATM Tarek, ADC (Rev) Mustafa Kamal, UNOs Gulam Mustafa, Mesbah Uddin Ahmed and In November last year, a joint Khaled Abu Naser, District Education Officer KM Khabir Uddin

Brahmanbaria Press Club President Mansur Kamal and head-masters Md Abdul Jalil and Islam

18 will vie for each seat in CU admission test

exam,

the district.

teachers,

officials vow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

administration and the education

department at a meeting here have

vowed not to allow cheating in the

forthcoming SSC (Secondary School Certificate) examination in

Headmasters of high schools

superintendents of madrassahs and

newsmen and the elite in the town

attended the meeting, held at the conference room of the Deputy

UNO's of all upazilas in the district

Rajshah

Eleven persons were sentenced to 62 years' imprisonment on Wednesday in a kidnap and murder case.

Rajshahi Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge ASM Aminul Islam delivered the judgement in absence of four main accused -- Pandit. Bipul, Akhil and Atul -- of Kahalu village in Bogra.

The convicts kidnapped 12-yearold Piyush and later killed him on February 27 in 2002 for his father Pulin's failure to pay them Tk two lakh as ransom.

All convicts were fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more in jail

Seven other convicts namely 36, Aynul Islam, 24, Kalipada. Nikhil, 29, Rois Uddin, 56, Bishnu Chandra Sarkar, 17, of Khawajalal village, Jhantu, 27, and Nannu, 30, of Haribasar village in Kahalu upazila, Bogra were present during judgement

Alleged rape bid Daulatkhan Municipal Commissioner arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A ward commissioner of Daulatkhan municipality in Bhola was arrested on charge of attempting to rape a woman on Monday

The ward commissioner is Sohel Hossain Monu,38 Victim's family members foiled

the bid and police arrested the accused.

In another incident, three persons were arrested on rape charge in Mehendiganj upazila

The arrested are Russell, Babul and Manik

Babul, owner of Salma Studio at Ulania Bazaar called the victim in his studio on the plea of taking her snap shot. Russel and three of his associates gangraped her in the studio. She came to the bazaar for marketing purpose from her village home Zadua.

The victim filed a case with the help of a local BNP leader. Police sent her to Mehendiganj hospital for medical test.

Mayor of Tower Hamlets Borough Council of London Abdul Aziz Sarder has said links between Svlhet City Corporation and the Council and their peoples would be strenathened.

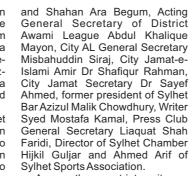
This will also contribute to consolidating ties between the UK and Bangladesh, he said while addressing a reception accorded to the visiting delegation of the Council led by him. It was arranged by Sylhet City Corporation at a city Restaurant Tuesday night "We the Bangladeshis living in

the UK have been playing a laudable role in the British Economy for decades and our new generation has also made their ways to new avenues". Sarder stressed on concerted efforts by the people of Sylhet to further increase the economic cooperation

Sarder, a Bangladeshi born British national has been in the STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet. UK for long. A delegation from the Council is now in Sylhet on a visit. Other members of the delegation are Councillors Matin-Uz-Zaman, John Lodgate, Patricia

Bairagi, Miah Manirul Alam and Mobin Tapadar. Speaking on the occasion Sylhet Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran said he will make all out efforts to increase the existing coopetation between the twin cities. He also urged expatriates to invest more in Bangladesh.

The function was also addressed by, among others, former lawmaker Syeda Zebunnesa Haque, former chairman of Sylhet Pourashava AFM Kamal, ward commissioners Azizul Haque Manik, Azadur Rahman Azad, Farhad Chowdhury Shamim, Mohammad Shahjahan,



Among the expatriates, it was also addressed by, President of Bangladesh Association in UK Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, Tower hamlets Councillors Matin-Uz-Zaman, John Lodgate, Patricia Bairagi, Miah Manirul Alam, and Mobin Tapadar and former councilor Barrister Jothsna

The function concluded with a colourful cultural function

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Battalion 6 was formally given the regimental colour for outstanding performance in curbing smuggling in different parts of the country since its inception in 1974.

Besides, preserving flora and fauna and developing their safe abode, the project will also have scopes for education and research work on environment and nature and providing entertainment facilities for the people by developing eco-tourism in the area. Abdul Motaleb, Conservator of

RU Teachers' Dry fish trading centre faces Day observed **RU CORRESPONDENT** closure Teachers Day marking the 35th

martyrdom of Dr Shamsuzzoha was Govt policy blamed observed in Rajshahi University **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** (RU) on Wednesday.

ment.

business.

those to Neamatpur. Those were

big traders were involved in the

in February 2002 banned import of

dry fish through Burimari due to

alleged tax evasion. On March 26

last year, it allowed dry fish import

President of Syedpur Dry Fish

Traders Association Abul Khair

Chandu said import of dry fish

through Akhaura or through ship is

very much uneconomic for traders

Besides, they have to face hassles

A BNP lawmaker from Svedpur.

Amzad Hossain Sarkar, placed the

matter in parliament last year and

submitted a written application to

the finance ministry for permission

to allow dry fish import through

Burimari, but to no effcet, the traders

ber, talking to this correspondent,

also demanded resumption of dry

fish import through Burimari.

Idris Ali, president of local cham-

and extortion at Akhaura

On this day in 1969, Dr Zoha, then a proctor of the university and A traditional centre for dry fish an associate professor of Chemistry department was killed by Pakistani business at Neamatpur in Syedpur army while protecting students is facing closure due to alleged participating in anti-Ayub demondiscriminatory policy of the govern stration from their wrath.

Teachers Day Celebration Committee.

students could not However, participate in the programme due to closure of the university for an indefinite period.

Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA), officers' association, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BČL), Sammilito Sangskritak Jote and cultural organisations placed floral wreaths at Dr Zoha's mazar.

Black flags were hoisted atop university buildings and halls. Milad mahfils and special prayers were arranged after Johr prayers in the university central mosque. RUTA and officers' association

only through Akhaura land port in jointly organised a discussion Brahmanbaria meeting at Juberee Bhaban.

20 hurt as BNP rivals clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 20 people were injured, six of them seriously, in BNP rivals' clash at Goalpara village in Sreepur upazila on Thursday.

Witnesses said the supporters of BNP Ward No 1 President Khokon Sheikh of Sreepur union locked in a clash with the loyal activists of party member Md Habil Mollick in a row over occupation of a disputed land.

Workshop told 'Enact tougher law to stop woman trafficking'

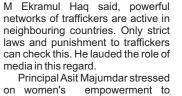
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a workshop here on Thursday called for enactment of stringent laws to check trafficking of women and children from Bangladesh.

Only tougher laws and punishment to traffickers can check this as Taking the opportunity of a good the causes for trafficking like povcommunication network, several erty, illiteracy and unemployment wholesale dry fish markets had can not be removed overnight, they been operating there for long. said. They also stressed the need Besides being a trading spot for legal protection of the victims. importers used to import dry fish District officials took part at the through Burimari land port and took workshop, organised jointly by the

Costal Development Network transported to different districts from (CDN) and Action Against Neamatpur. About 10,000 small and Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEK). It was held at the conference room of the Deputy The National Board of Revenue Commissioner.

Speaking as chief guest, DC A Y



reduce trafficking Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) said, the NGOs and the media can create mass awareness, which will reduce this. Former commerce secretary and Project Director of ATSEK

explained his organisation's activities to check women trafficking. Abdus Sabur, CDN member

secretary, delivered the address of welcome at the workshop, also addressed by Meherul Alam, Asit Shuvra, Subhas Chowdhury and Dilip Kumar Dev.



A training workshop on 'Empowerment of Women: Bangladesh Perspective' was held at Tangail Deputy Commissioner's conference room on Wednesday. The district administration and Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equility an NGO, jointly organised the workshop.

The day-long programme includes rally after the opening ceremony at 9.30 am, placing of wreath in memory of departed students and teachers of the department at 11:00 am and cultural programme at Muktamancha (Am-

Deptt students' reunion Feb 27 JU CORRESPONDENT

campus on February 27.

Interested students have been asked to contact the Reunion-2004 committee for registration. For more information they may contact over the following telephone numbers 7212206, 018223409, 011871299, 0171527313 and 0172-046904.

phitheatre) at 4.30 pm.

JU Economics

The reunion of former and present students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) Economics Department will be held on the