

## SNAPS

## Heart camp at Faridpur

BSS, Faridpur

A two-day heart camp under the auspices of Faridpur Heart Foundation will be held from March 19 to 20.

Eminent cardiac specialists Brigadier (Retd) Prof Abdul Malik, Dr Zahangir Kabir, Prof RK Khondoker, Prof KMHS Sirajul Haque, Prof Abdul Hossain Khan Chowdhury, Dr ANM Momenuzzaman and Dr Fazilatunnessa Malik will attend the camp.

Patients have been requested to contact Faridpur Heart Foundation within March 15.

## Acid thrown on housewife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha  
A housewife sustained severe burn injuries as unidentified miscreants threw acid on her at a village here on Saturday.

The victim has been identified as Momotaj Begum, 30, hailing from Kishamat Malibari village in Sadar upazila.

The victim told this correspondent that she had a long standing quarrel with her relatives over disputed lands.

## 5 get life for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona  
A court in Jamalpur on Sunday sentenced five persons to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for gang rape of an aborigine girl at Bakshiganj upazila on August 7, 2003.

The convicts are Nasir, Khokan, Liton, Jahangir and Abul Kalam of Satani para village of the upazila. Of the convicts, Liton, Jahangir and Abul Kalam have been absconding.

The criminals abducted the schoolgirl from her house on August 7, last year and gangraped her.

## IU students submit memo to PM

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Islamic University (IU) students on Saturday submitted a memorandum to its chancellor Prime Minister Khaleda Zia through the university registrar.

Their demands contained resignation of Vice-Chancellor Professor Mustafizur Rahman for his alleged involvement in corruption, immediate solution of the university crisis and resumption of classes.

Students brought out a procession on the campus and blocked the university main gate for an hour.

No classes were held in the university since January 1 as the Islamic University Teachers' Association (IUTA), BNP-backed Zia Parishad and Awami League supported Bangabandhu Parishad continued their classes boycott under the banner of Bidhi Bidhan Sangskaran Committee.

Meanwhile, the first year admission test scheduled to be held on January 19 was postponed due to teachers' movement.

## More 11000 REB connections in Netrakona this year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

More 11,000 subscribers will get power supply from Netrakona Palli Biddiyut Samity during the current financial year.

The REB has 55,510 subscribers now, 41,219 of them residential and 9,080 commercial. Besides, it supplied power to 3,062 irrigation pumps in the district. General Manager of the Samity M Muklesh Gani told its conference here recently.

A total of 1092 villages out of 2111 in Netrakona district have been brought under power supply network by the Samity.

To expand the service in rural areas, the Samity has started work to set up more 100 kilometres supply lines and a sub-station at cost of Tk 10 crore, he said.

## Illiterate women bring light to remote island

They make solar energy kits to light houses in Charmontaj

AKTER FARUK SHAHIN, Barisal

Thirty-five illiterate women at a remote coastal island are doing an impossible job. They are making and assembling solar energy equipment to light houses at Charmontaj island where electricity supply is virtually impossible in near future.

Charmontaj is about 70 kilometres' journey from Galachipa upazila headquarters in Patuakhali, crossing four rivers.

So far, solar lighting systems made by them have been installed in five houses in the island, completely isolated from the mainland.

These women are members of the Coastal Electricity and Women Development Association, aided

by ESMAP (emergency sector management assistant program).

They are making solar bulb and battery. With some imported components, they are assembling solar energy supply units. The battery gets power from charger run with diesel. One 12 volt battery can keep four bulbs on for eight hours by using ¼ litre diesel. The system is portable.

The association was launched in 1999, its co-ordinator Mohiuddin Ahmed told this correspondent during a recent visit. It makes equipment to supply solar lighting systems to houses in Charmontaj island.

So far, its 35 members have made 1250 solar bulbs which generate electricity from sunshine.

The association has six sales centers in Charmontaj and Galachipa. It has supplied 200 solar lighting systems in the last two years.

Two other NGOs-- Shrijani Bangladesh and Coast Trust-- supply necessary materials under contracts, Mohiuddin said.

The Engineering Sangsad of Dhaka, World Bank and governments of Netherlands and Germany are providing technical assistance.

The association's factory and office are now housed in a big building at Charmontaj. The building was built with assistance from ESMAP, its general secretary Shahida Gazi said. "They were impressed by our work", she said.

Jhumu Khan, finance secretary of the association, said the association has a nine-member managing committee. The committee members are from among the 35. "All are workers of the association", she said.

The members earn Tk 2000 to 3000 per month depending on their work.

Abdul Matin, Chairman of Charmontaj Union Parishad said people of the remote coastal area never hope of getting electricity from any government agency. "But our dream is coming true".

Rabeya Khatun, a member said, "We were so poor. Now we can dream of better life".



Members of the Coastal Electricity and Women Development Association at work at their factory at Charmontaj.

## CUTA not 'satisfied' with Syndicate meeting

Indefinite work abstention to be discussed at teachers' meeting in a day or two

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) is not "satisfied" at the outcome of the marathon special meeting of the Syndicate held on Sunday.

"We will hold an emergency meeting in a day or two after getting the official letter in response to our 22-point demand", CUTA General Secretary Helal Uddin Nizami told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We will begin an indefinite work abstention and launch a one-point movement for VC's resignation if all our demands are not

met", he said when contacted.

All academic activities however continued uninterrupted at the university yesterday.

Sunday's meeting began at 11am and continued beyond 9pm.

It discussed the 22-point demand placed by the CUTA earlier.

The demands include holding of graduates' election to the Senate, cancellation of all fees charged for verifying transcripts of graduates, declaration of the old Arts Faculty building as "abandoned" and holding of election to

some CU councils.

CUTA had earlier announced work abstention from February 19 but that was postponed following assurance by Vice-chancellor Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury that a special Syndicate meeting would be called only to discuss the demands and those would be met by March 7.

Yesterday's meeting was held as per the VC's assurance. Helal Uddin said yesterday's meeting was supposed to discuss on the 22 demands. But ten other issues were included in the agenda, he said.

## Life stops for an hour in 21 southern districts

Strike likely if decision on Padma Bridge at Mawa not announced tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

As the clock ticked 11 am yesterday, life stopped for an hour in 21 southern districts.

The programme was observed at the call of a people's committee for construction of the proposed Padma Bridge at Mawa.

Great enthusiasm was marked among all classes of people for the programme styled 'Achaal Dakkhinanchal' (total halt in southern region). The Committee for Padma Bridge at Mawa, organised the peaceful programme covering 21 districts in Barisal, Khulna and part of Dhaka divisions.

Tougher programmes including an indefinite strike will be called in the 21 districts if an announcement is not made by tomorrow for building the bridge at Mawa, committee leaders declared at a rally held in Barisal yesterday.

Sharp at 11 AM, people except

those in fire service, police and ambulances, stopped movement and work. Those on roads and highways, sat where they were, the committee leaders claimed.

Electric supply was suspended and shops, offices,

Markets, banks, educational institutions and courts stopped and transports on roads and rivers anchored for an hour.

Those on roads in cities and towns formed human chains or sat where they were.

At the rally held at Barisal Aswani Kumar Hall, the committee leaders explained the reasons for their demand. They said the proposed bridge should be built at Mawa for greater national interest.

Fifty-five million people of 21 districts of southern region, tourist zones there including the Sunarbans and the Mongla port will get new life will get new life if the bridge is built there, they said.

With Golam Mawa, president of the committee's Barisal divisional committee in the chair, the rally was addressed by, among others, Barisal district BNP secretary advocate Nazrul Islam Rajon, cultural personality Mintu Bose, Barisal Reporters Unity Secretary Shawkat Milton, Toufiq Maruf, Saifur Rahman Miron, human rights activist advocate Manbendra Batobayal, Muktiyoddha Sangshad Convener Nurul Alam Farid, Barisal ADAB President Hafizur Rahman, Principal Shamsuddin Khan, Bankers Club Secretary Nazrul Islam Chunnun, Nurul Amin, Red Crescent Secretary H M Saleh, Dr Habibur Rahman, Awami League leaders Khan Altaf Hossain and Moazzem Hossain Helal, Barisal city Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Maniruzzaman Faruk, BJP leader Nigar Sultana Hanufa, BCC Commissioner Altaf Vatti, JP leader AKM Shahjahan and IOJ leader Abdur Razzak.

## 60 hurt in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 60 people were injured in clashes between two rival groups at Chitri village in Nabinagar upazila on Sunday.

Over 600 people were involved in the intermittent clashes that began centring a ha-do-do game (an indigenous game), police and witnesses said.

A temporary police camp has been set up in the village, police said.

Six of the injured were admitted

to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital, 10 at Bhairab Hospital and two others -- Hasan and Hussain -- were sent to Dhaka in critical conditions, police and hospital sources said.

The clash was between people of Sarker Bari and Sab Bari, who are traditional rivals.

The clash ensued when two persons were locked in an altercation over the result of the game. Their supporters then joined, making it a clash between the two clans.

## She can not afford to remain UP member any more

MUNIRUL ALAM, Rangamati

Kulity wants to resign from the post of Union Parishad (UP) member because she can not afford to retain it.

Moreover, she can not render any service to her people.

"I was better off earlier (when she was not a UP member). I used to work in the jhum field, look after my children and rear our cows and goats.

"I sold all the pets after being elected a UP member. I can not give time to my children and help my husband in the field", said Kulity of Tripura tribe, elected a member of Sazek Union Parishad from Lonkor village in Baghaichhari upazila last year.

"I want to back to my previous days leaving the (UP) membership."

This correspondent was surprised while talking to her at the Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) office.

She came here for a follow-up of an application for some LGED (Local Government Engineering and Rural Development) work in her area.

Kulity said, to come to

Rangamati town for any official work, she has to walk a whole day to reach Baghaichhari upazila headquarters and then take a boat journey for about eight hours. It takes two days in total. One trip to the district headquarters for any official work takes five days and costs about Tk 1000.

"Who gives me the money? I get Tk 350 per month, and that also in six-monthly payments. I sold all my cattle and goats in last one year".

Moreover, the official work is not done in one visit. "You know how things move in such offices".

"I have borrowed enough money. If the situation continues I must resign". Kulity is the mother of three sons and three daughters.

Her 11 year-old son Talandra Tapura is a student of class six at a school at Baghaichhari upazila headquarters but she can not support him financially and give time.

Who will answer Kulity's questions?

## Bandarban poura chairman showcaused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The government has issued a show-cause notice on Bandarban Pourashava chairman Ayub Choudhury on February 28 asking why he should not be removed from his position.

The chairman has been facing charges of corruption and nepotism.

Signed by Bandarban Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan the notice asked him to explain within seven days why a special meeting should not be convened to remove him from his post.

## Revision petition on Hasina's motorcade attack case IO was 'influenced' by ruling party, hearing told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Hearing of the revision petition regarding the attack on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's motorcade at Kalaroa on August 30, 2002 began at the District and Sessions Judge's court on Sunday.

The revision case was filed on February 2, 17 days after a lower court acquitted the accused including a BNP lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib.

Local AL leader Moslem Uddin had filed a case with a magistrate court accusing 27 people including the lawmaker as Kalaroa thana officer-in-charge (OC) declined to record the case.

Appearing for the complainant, former minister advocate Abdul Matin Khashru argued that investigation of the case was not "neutral" as Kalaroa thana OC was the investigating officer (IO).

The OC submitted the final report as he was "influenced by ruling party men", he argued.

The OC did not collect evidences and record statements of witnesses mentioned in the petition, he alleged.

On the other hand, all the witnesses also could not testify before the magistrate court, he argued.

The judge fixed March 11 for the next hearing. Later on the day, Khosru exchanged views with newsmen at the Satkhira Bar library. He alleged that there is no rule of law in the country. There will be no peace and development till rule of law is established, he said.

He was assisted by advocates Rahmat Ali MP, Abdul Mannan Khan and SM Haider.

## Punishment demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hundreds of people demonstrated here on Saturday demanding proper investigation, arrest and punishment to the killers of two housewives.

Shila and Runa, two housewives in Katakhal area were 'killed by their husbands for dowry' on February 27 and March 3.

People brought out a big procession and submitted memorandum to Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and Principal of Rajshahi Medical College.

They held a meeting on Rajshahi court premises. Chaired by Prof Sirajul Islam, the meeting was addressed by Advocate Shariful Islam, Mustak Ahmed, GM Mustak and Nigar Sultana.



Dhirashram Jubo Samaj organised a Kabadi competition between Bhararul and Meghdubi teams at Dhirashram in Gazipur on Friday. Several thousand people enjoyed the sport.

PHOTO: STAR