

SNAPS

Reception to Shaheed families

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*
A reception was accorded to the family members of eight martyred freedom fighters at Shahid Alauddin Square in the town on Saturday.

Satkhira chapter of the Greater Khulna Development Co-ordination Committee organised the reception on the 34th Independence Day.

The martyrs are: Nazmul, Kazal, Sirajul, Quddus, Samad, Monsur and Subed Ali.

An amount of 1,000 taka and crest were distributed to each of the family members of the martyred freedom fighters.

Its convener advocate Abdur Rouf presided over the reception ceremony while it was addressed, among others, by Principal Aset Kumar Majumdar, Principal Khairul Islam, advocate Mostofa Lutfullah, Abdul Bari, Kalyan Banerjee, Kamrul Islam Frooq, advocate Shah Alam, Sudhansu Shekhar Sarkar, Nesar Uddin Babla, Kazam Ali and the younger brother of Shahid Kazal Manirul Islam.

4 sons of Charmonai Peer get bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*
Four sons of Charmonai Peer and their 13 followers were granted bail by the Speedy Trial Tribunal (STT).

STT Magistrate Iqbal Hassan have them bail on Thursday as they surrendered before the court as per a directive of the High Court.

They were accused in a criminal case filed by BNP leader and former chairman of Charmonai union Abdus Salam Bari last year for allegedly assaulting him and snatched his money and a licensed revolver.

Schoolgirl rescued after 13 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*
A schoolgirl was rescued by police from Sagordi area of the city Friday night, 13 days after her abduction.

Her father, a resident of Tiakhali area of the city, had filed a case immediately after the abduction naming the accused but police could not arrest any of the abductors till yesterday.

On information, police rescued her from in front of one of the accused abductors, Badsha.

The girl, a student of class eight at Sagordi High School, was abducted in the afternoon of March 13 allegedly by Shamim, Badsha, Mohim, Basher and Taiyaf Ali while she was returning home from school.

INDEPENDENCE DAY MEET

63 freedom fighters not invited

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

Sixty-three freedom fighters here were not invited by the district administration to join the Independence Day programme on Friday.

The freedom fighters claimed that non-freedom fighters were included in the invitation list instead of real freedom fighters.

"I did not receive any invitation letter from the district administration for joining the Independence Day programme," said U K Chin, a freedom fighter who received Bir Bikram award for his outstanding contribution during the Liberation War.

The aggrieved freedom fighters joined the Independence Day programme organised by the district Awami League at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Call to institute scheduled caste education fund

A CORRESPONDENT, *Joypurhat*

The speakers at a grand rally of backward Rabidas community, victims of caste system, have demanded of the government to institute scheduled caste education fund, special quota in government service and radio-television coverage of their cultural activities.

Sponsored by Joypurhat Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission the rally was held recently in remembrance of their mentor and saint Guru Rabidasji at Sadar Aramnagar Rabidas Palli compound here.

The speakers recalled and eulogised the role and ideals of Guru Rabidasji who struggled all his life for emancipation of the backward community. They also maintained that the community is still too much backward deprived of minimum opportunities in the society.

The congregation was held with Jagadish Rabidas in chair while Master Kanaillal Rabidas Mohanto, Director General of Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission attended as chief guest. Maulana Bashfor from Gaibandha, Madanlal Rabidas from Pabna, Basari Mohan Rabidas from Meherpur, Gopinath Rabidas from Kurigram, Rabindranath Kanu from Santahar and Adviser to the Mission Advocate Babul Rabidas were present as special guests.

Police raid 6 Syedpur villages

Search on for "snatched" wireless set: 30 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

Police during raids in six villages surrounding Syedpur Uttara Housing Project to recover a "snatched" wireless and a magazine have arrested 30 people.

Most of the males are fleeing homes since police teams from Nilphamari, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Range Reserve Police from Rajshahi launched raids in Dangapara, East Bottagari, Khorddo Botlagari, Kismat Kadikhol, Porar Hat and Gulpora villages on March 22.

Some local people while talking to this correspondent alleged that police are assaulting and harassing villagers and that most of those arrested are "innocent day labourers".

Police earlier said two wireless sets, a rifle with eight bullets and a shotgun magazine were allegedly snatched during clashes with Bangalees on March 21. Bangalees

were protesting a government plan to allot houses in its Uttara Housing Project only to Beharis (Urdu speaking people).

Police recovered the rifle along with eight bullets from Dangapara near Shutipara rail crossings on March 24 and a wireless set from Kadikhol on the western side of Chilahati-Parbatipur rail track the next day, both in abandoned conditions.

One wireless set and a magazine are yet to be recovered, police said.

The villagers said police are thoroughly searching houses, paddy fields, ponds, canals and other places.

Some women showed to news-men signs of beating on their bodies. Police also ransacked houses during search and abused women, they alleged.

They said many women and children are starving as bread-earning male members are fleeing homes.

To discuss the situation, Botlagari Union Parishad Chairman Sayedur Rahman called an emergency meeting of his UP members at his office on March 23.

The chairman and all the members told newsmen that most of the arrested people are innocent day labourers. They demanded release of the innocent people and arrest of the real culprits.

Nilphamari Police Superintendent, when contacted, told this correspondent that he did not get any written or verbal complaint from any one about alleged police harassment.

"We have instructed our forces to handle the situation with patience and caution so that innocent people are not harassed."

Other police sources said the search will continue till the wireless set and the magazine is recovered.

Meanwhile, Awami League central publicity secretary and a lawmaker from Nilphamari Sadar

Asaduzzaman Noor at a public meeting on Nilphamari Shaheed Minar premises on Saturday alleged that police were harassing people in villages around the Uttara Housing Project.

He also alleged that the ruling party lawmaker from Syedpur is biased towards non-Bengalees and is trying to keep his vote bank intact, thus creating a chaotic situation in the area.

Ruling BNP lawmaker from Syedpur Amjad Hossen Sarkar told newsmen on March 23 at Syedpur that unrest was created in the area by some influential quarters who had illegally occupied and enjoyed the lands for 32 years before construction of the housing project.

Meanwhile the bail petition of Dr. Abul Hasan Bulu, leader of the Bangalees agitating for allotment of houses in the project, was rejected by court on two consecutive days. April 10 is the next hearing date.

Hasina to visit Patuakhali from April 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina will pay a three-day visit to Patuakhali from April 2, party sources said.

Party sources said, on arrival the AL chief will address a public meeting at PDSA ground on the day. On April 3, she will visit Bauphal, Dasmina, Galachipa and Kalapara. During her visit she will address public meetings at Bauphal and Galachipa. She will also tour Kuakata. She will address street corner meetings at Dashmina and Amtali. Her other public meetings will be held at Rangabali and Barguna.

On April 5, she will leave Barguna for Jhalakathi, party sources added.

Tk 9.60 cr arsenic-free water supply project in 12 districts

BSS, *Rajshahi*

A five-year 9.60 crore taka arsenic-free drinking water supply project is being implemented in 12 districts since 2001, official sources said.

The Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra with the initiative of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives has been implementing the project styled "Socio-economic and Improvement of Quality of Life By Supplying Arsenic-free Water."

The main objectives are to provide micro-credit in the income generating activities by imparting intensive professional training.

It will also enhance the per capita water consumption from 10 litres to 100 litres per day. The micro-credit is returnable. The credit is given to run development schemes at a low cost and to change the mentality of depending on others.

Under the project, 24 deep tube-wells, two each in 12 districts will be installed at a cost of 4.52 crore taka. Installation of deep tube-wells in seven districts have already been completed. Necessary infrastructure are also being installed for treatment of water being extracted from underground to ensure iron and arsenic free water.

Besides providing safe-drinking water to 36,000 people through pipeline, 2,400 acres of cropland would also be brought under irrigation.

Around 2,400 beneficiaries will be given vocational training on

New technology to raise fish production

BAU launches project to train fish farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

of BAU.

Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) has launched a project to transfer a technology to fish farmers that will increase fish production and save the indigenous fish species from extinction.

In the new technology called cryopreservation, sperm collected from fish can be scientifically preserved for long at minus 196°C temperature and injected into mother fishes keeping its biological qualities intact. This will increase yield.

The project is supervised by Dr Md Rafiqul Islam Sarder, Associate Professor and Head of Fisheries Biology and Genetics Department

After successful laboratory experiment, BAU is now transferring the technology to fish farmers.

This technology is being used in the country for the first time, Dr Islam told this correspondent.

He said fish fries now supplied from government and private hatcheries lose their genetic quality because of unscientific collection, injection into mother fishes and breeding. This reduces production, he said.

Long-term scientific storage of fish sperm will open up a new horizon in fish cultivation.

A Gene Bank of endangered species will be established, which

will save the endangered species and help increase their production, he said.

Experiment is now going on to evolve new varieties through cross-breeding of indigenous varieties, he said.

Dr. Islam said there were 266 species of freshwater fishes in our country. Of those, 56 are on the verge of extinction now.

To transfer the technology, a two-day training programme on "Fish Sperm Cryopreservation and Cryogenic Gene Banking for Genetic Diversity Improvement" concluded at the BAU recently.

Fifteen fish farmers took part in the training.



Dr Md Rafiqul Islam Sarder explaining the cryopreservation technology to fish farmers during the recent two-day workshop held at the BAU.

'Demanding failed govt's ouster not undemocratic'

Asaduzzaman Noor tells Nuilphamari public meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

Awami League central publicity secretary and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor has said the BNP-led alliance government has lost its moral right to stay in power.

It has failed to keep its election pledge to maintain law and order. Law and order deteriorated because ruling party leaders and activists are sheltering criminals, he alleged.

Journalists and intellectuals are being attacked. None of the criminals who attacked Prof Humayun Azad were arrested, he said.

Humayun Azad identified the attackers as members of a fundamentalist party but no step has been taken to arrest them.

Noor was addressing a public meeting on Nilphamari Shaheed Minar premises in observance of "farmers killing day" by AL on March 27. The district Krishok League organised the meeting to commemorate death of farmers in police firing during the previous rule of BNP. Noor was elected from Nilphamari Sadar.

Noor criticised the government for price hike of fertiliser and fuel crisis during the ongoing IRRI-Boro season. Fertiliser prices are much more than what was during AL rule, he said.

Moreover, the people are hard-hit by rising prices of essentials like rice, pulses and soyabean oil.

Demanding resignation of a

government is not undemocratic. AL is demanding the government's resignation because it has failed in every sector, Noor alleged.

He also mentioned that this government closed several mills after take over, throwing thousands of people out of employment.

Presided over by Nilphamari district president of Krishok League Anmoy Kumar Roy, the meeting was addressed by, among other, AL joint convener Jonab Ali and party leader Montazul Islam, district Kristok League General Secretary Khokaram Roy and Jobo League President Romendra Nath Barman.

After the meeting, a big procession paraded the main streets of the town chanting various slogans.



Asaduzzaman Noor MP addressing a public meeting on the premises of Nilphamari Shaheed Minar on Saturday in observance of "farmers killing day" by Krishak League.

60 hurt as villagers clash in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

At least 60 people were injured in a clash at Penakhali village in Mazirpur upazila in Pirojpur district on Saturday as an arbitration to settle a dispute failed.

Five shops and three houses were torched during the clash.

Quoting villagers, police said that one Jahangir of Penakhali village borrowed Tk 20,000 from Rasul Amin, chairman of Malikhali Union Parishad two years back.

Failing to realise the money, Rasul Amin filed a case against Jahangir and 17 others with Nazirpur thana.

To settle the dispute, an arbitration meeting was called on Saturday in the morning. As it failed amid exchange of words between the two, their supporters, many of them armed, took to the streets.

On information, police came from Matibhanga and Nazirpur thanas but failed to quell the violence.

Pirojpur Assistant Police Superintendent came with reinforcement and brought the situation under control.

Forty-two of the injured people were admitted to Nazirpur health complex. Condition of six is serious, police said. Tension is prevailing in the area.

BCL activist, youth killed in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Two persons including an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were killed in Pirojpur and Jhalakathi districts.

BCL activist Ayub Ali, 24, was strangled at Pathakathi village under Mathbaria upazila in Pirojpur in the early hours of yesterday.

Police and the victim's family said Ayub Ali was called out of his house by 6-7 persons. They took him to a nearby field and slit his throat.

One Bachchu Howlader of Nathullabad village under Jhalakathi Sadar upazila, beaten by rivals, died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in Barisal Saturday night.

40,000 face water crisis at Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

About 40,000 people of the hill town face an acute crisis.

They get supply of only one-fourth of the total requirement of 16 lakh gallons of water.

According to an official source, the Bandarban Pourasabha and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) jointly control water supply system in the town. But the two organisations lack coordination and understanding resulting in people's sufferings.

Moreover, three out of four pump machines are out of order for the last two years. The lone pump provides 4,00,000 gallons of water harnessing water from the Sangu river adjacent to water treatment plant at Kewehing Ghata in the town.

A big water tank at Islampur under Bandarban municipality was declared abandoned three years ago only after six months of its unplanned construction by the

DPHE. As a result, the government lost about two crore taka.

Local people further alleged, about 300 ring-wells, Tara pumps and tube-wells constructed in the town by the DPHE, Bandarban municipality and other government and non-government organisations are lying out of order for a long period. But no steps were taken to reoperate those.

Meanwhile, Bandarban town water supply authorities received an urgent notice from the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to pay outstanding bill amounting to one crore sixty lakh taka. Electricity connection would be snapped for non-payment of bill, the BPDB warned.

On contact, DPHE Executive Engineer Mohammed Mostafa told this correspondent the water supply authorities are losing two lakh taka every month. However, efforts are going on to solve water crisis, he added.



Barisal Mohila Parishad organised a human chain in the city recently demanding direct election of women members in Parliament.