

SNAPS

RU admission test rescheduled

RU CORRESPONDENT
The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities on Sunday announced a fresh schedule of admission test. According to the new schedule, tests for admission in Bio-chemistry, Geology and Mining, Fine Arts and Material Science departments will be held on April 13, says a press release. Tests for admission in Zoology, Agronomy and Agriculture and Botany departments will be held on April 15. Tests in other departments will be held as per previous schedule, the press release added.

New RU Student Advisor

RU CORRESPONDENT
Rajshahi University (RU) Finance and Banking Department Assistant Professor Mohammad Zahid Hossain Milky was appointed the new student advisor of the university on Sunday. A former house tutor of Sher-e-Bangla Hall, Milky replaced Professor Rafiqul Islam, who joined Islamic University as its new vice chancellor.

After his take over a meeting was held at his office where leaders of student organisations, journalists and officers addressed.

Rajshahi Bar polls held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Advocate Mujibur Rahman Talukdar of Jatiyatabadi Oikya Parishad and Advocate Mohammad Ibrahim Hossain of Sammilito Ainjibi Parishad have been elected president and general secretary respectively of Rajshahi Advocates' Bar Association.

Left leaning Sammilito Ainjibi Parishad bagged 14 posts while the Oikya Parishad aligned to the ruling alliance got seven posts in the polls held on April 1.

3 women held with phensidyl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
Gobindganj police on Saturday recovered 95 bottles of smuggled phensidyl from a bus coming from Hily border and arrested three women. They are Ritu Begum and Liifa Begum of Bogra and Marufa Begum of Hily.

Tanker seized by police looted by miscreants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Miscreants on Monday night looted machinery and furniture from an oil tanker seized earlier by police on the Kirtankhola river near Barisal city. Police had seized the tanker--MT Shelter -- on June 6, 2002 on charge of involvement in smuggling and anchored it at KTC ghat in the river. It was there since then. On Sunday night, a storm drifted it to a shoal near Sajordi area of the city. It was looted on the following night there. Police is now guarding the looted tanker but could not arrest any of the miscreants.

MURDER OF BARISAL BUSINESSMAN

Traders down shutters, hold rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Traders in Nathullabadh central bus terminal area in the city observed a three-hour shutdown, held a rally and brought out a procession in the city yesterday in protest against the killing of young businessman Masud Rana.

Workshop owner Rana, 23, of Kashipur area was abducted by some criminals Sunday evening as he allegedly fail to pay toll.

His slaughtered body was found on the premises of Deputy Inspector General's office in the city Monday morning. His workshop was at

Kashipur near the Nathullabadh bus terminal.

Businesses in the area remained closed from noon to 3 pm yesterday.

Speakers at the protest rally demanded immediate punishment of the killers.

It was addressed by, among others local businessmen leaders Mizanur Rahman Bachchu and Humayun Kabir.

Meanwhile, police could not arrest any body in connection with the murder.

Kotwali police when contacted said a process was on to file a case.



Traders marching streets of Barisal city yesterday demanding trial of Masud Rana's killers.

PHOTO: STAR

Proposed Sylhet Children's Park gets no response from investors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Repeated attempts to lease a government land for establishing a Children's Park and Zoo in Sylhet could not attract desired response from private investors even after floating of tenders several times.

The decision to invite private entrepreneurs was taken after the authorities failed to set up a Natural Park on the land at Baishitla on the outskirts of the city. The site was prepared for a park long ago.

Tender was floated last month for the fourth time.

The first tender floated in August last year was cancelled as only one party responded. None

responded to the second tender in October. In the third tender floated in January this year, only one party responded.

The Sylhet Zila Parishad owns the 43.39 acre land proposed for the park. The area with a scenic beauty and having small hillocks and about 10,000 trees of different types was acquired decades ago for establishing a natural park.

As per the conditions, the land will be leased for ten years. The lessee will pay revenue every year, build the park and run it commercially, keeping the bio-diversity intact. The lessee will also collect animals for the proposed zoo.

Some sources said around Tk three crore would be needed to build

the park and the zoo.

Sylhet Zila Parishad had leased the site in 1999 to a company for ten years through tender to set up a 'natural park' on certain conditions. While signing the agreement in December 1999, the company paid Tk 2.5 lakh as revenue for the first year (2000). It was supposed to pay the total amount of Tk 36 lakh in three years.

But the company neither the start work not made any more payment. As per the contract, the company was supposed to complete the park in three years.

Official sources said the defaulter company has been asked to pay the rest amount. Otherwise, legal steps will be taken against it.

Magura farmers parade streets for smooth power supply

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Several hundred farmers on Monday brought out a procession in the town demanding uninterrupted power supply during the ongoing boro season.

Farmers of several villages in Moghi union paraded the main streets of the town in the procession.

More than 60 per cent of 80 irrigation pumps here are being operated by electricity but due to load-shedding many deep tube-wells have become inoperative, growers and sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension said.

Magura Power Development Board (PDB) official sources told this correspondent that the demand of

power in the district during peak hours is 14 megawatt. But at present only 4 to 6 megawatt of electricity is being supplied, the sources said.

"We have nothing to do unless the supply is increased from the national grid," Magura PDB executive engineer Santosh Kumar Sadhukhan told this correspondent on Monday.

Growers complained on the day that at least 24 pumps of irrigation machines were damaged due to low voltage of electricity.

Talking to this correspondent seeking anonymity, a PDB engineer here suggested renovation of Magura power sub-station to get rid of the problem.

Ultimatum for rescue of abducted Magura trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Magura District Banik Samity (merchants association) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioner (DC) demanding rescue of abducted businessman Sanatan Kumar Paul by Friday.

In the memorandum they said that the Banik Samity along with political leaders and people would go on tougher action programmes like hartal, shutdown and road blockade if the businessman is not rescued by that time.

Earlier, the traders held a rally and marched to the DC's office. "We waited for long. We will take to streets street from Saturday for Sanatan's rescue", Humayun Kabir Raja, general secretary of the Samity, told this correspondent after submitting the memorandum.

An armed gang abducted wholesale trader Sanatan Kumar Paul, 45, from his house at Natun Bazar in Magura town at around 11:00 pm on March 30, and injured his employee Biswajit with gunshot as he tried to resist the abduction. Biswajit is under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital now.

The gang on the following day sent a message to Sanatan's family demanding a ransom of Tk 10 lakh.

Efforts made by his family for the last six days for his release went in vain, sources said.

Though Magura Additional Police Superintendent Md Belayet Hossain on Saturday last said Sanatan would be rescued within a day or two, law enforcers have failed to make any headway in this regard.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case said they are trying to rescue the businessman.

Deshnetri Parishad leader faces arrest warrant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP-backed Deshnetri Parishad vice president Kazi Khairuzzaman Shipon faces a warrant of arrest on charge of 'demanding dowry' amounting to 5 lakh taka from his wife and torturing her.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court issued the warrant of arrest against him under Anti-dowry Act.

Shipon's wife Tahmina Hasan Tanni, a close relative of city mayor advocate Shaikh Tayebur Rahman alleged that her husband is at large and gives her death threats.

State of World's Children launched

RU CORRESPONDENT

The State of the World's Children 2004 was launched and presented at the Rajshahi Shishu Academy auditorium on Sunday noon.

The Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund) and the Rajshahi Shishu Academy jointly organised the programme.

The report stressed on "girl education and development" to achieve the millennium goal 2015.

Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, was present as chief guest during the ceremony where children, teachers, guardians, NGO activists, journalists and elite were present.



The site of the proposed Children's Park and Zoo near the city.

PHOTO: STAR

Duck plague in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Duck plague has broken out in different areas of the district.

The affected villages are Borahora, Choto Haran, Beel Kenduai, Khakchail, Sout Tarua, North Tarua, Khulapara, Bayek Jagadishpur, Araeshida, Purba Talshahar, Poshchim Thalshahar, Nantai, Vatpara and Birasagar in the sadar upazila. At least 200 ducks died there in the last one week, villagers said.

They said the attacked ducks run temperature and die within three days.

When contacted, veterinarians said they have no preventive vaccine or curative medicine for duck plague.

UNLICENSED HOTELS IN RAJSHAHI Govt cheated of Tk five cr a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The government is deprived of at least Tk five crore revenue earning every year as most of the hotels, boarding houses and restaurants in Rajshahi operate without licence, sources said.

There are over 3,000 restaurants and 2,000 boarding houses in the district. Most of those outside the city run without valid documents, depriving the government of earnings from license fees, value added tax (VAT) and income tax.

Some of the hotels in the city have are allegedly become dens for anti-social activities. Most restaurants are unhygienic.

As the city expands, hotels and restaurants spring up beside roads, lanes and even by-lanes.

As per the Bangladesh Hotel and Restaurant Ordinance 1982, hotels and restaurants have to take trade license from municipal authorities or city corporations within two months of opening. Any hotel with ten beds is also required to take license from the Bangladesh Hotel and Restaurant Cell under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

The law requires hotels and restaurants to be structurally safe and protected from fire or electric short-circuit and gas leak.

Section 21 of the Ordinance says any violator of the law can be fined up to Tk 5,000.

Nursing nature, making fortune

Nurseries change life, employ 6000 in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Nursery business has changed the lot of many, besides employing about 6000 people in the district.

There are at least 1200 nurseries in urban and rural areas in Satkhira Sader, Tala, Kolaroa, Debhata and Kaligonj upazilas, according to a survey done by this correspondent. These are supplying saplings of fruit, timber and flower plants.

Md Noor Ali Biswas, 50, a poor farmer of Puratan Satkhira Das Para village in the town, could not feed his eight-member family with four sons and two daughters. He has changed his life after converting his 25 decimal courtyard into a nursery six years back.

This year, he purchased 16 decimal land at Tk 80,000 and leased two bighas of land to expand his nursery. His sons could not go to school due to poverty. Now his

youngest daughter goes to school.

Now he earns about Tk 125000 from the nursery annually, which is enough to maintain his family. Many others in the village have been encouraged by his success. He hopes to earn around Tk four lakh annually from his expanded nursery.

Besides helping increase three plantation, Noor Ali says he is making a significant contribution to changing traditional fruit trees in the area with good and high yielding varieties. He supplies saplings of mango plants like Himsagar, Langra, Gopal Bhog, Fazli Ampropoli and Mallika.

Gopal Chandra Das was unemployed after passing SSC examination. He started a small nursery on 10 decimal land in the courtyard in 1998. This has changed the lot of his family. His parents are happy with him. He has employed five men.

This year he expanded the

nursery to two acres with about four lakh saplings of fruit and timber trees. He earned Tk 90,000 last year and expects to earn Tk 150,000 in

the coming season.

He supplies saplings to Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal, Faridpur and Manikganj.



Gopal Chandra Das nursing seedlings at his nursery.

PHOTO: STAR

PLAINTIFF IN WOMAN REPRESSION CASE ALLEGED

Rajshahi police free two accused after 'taking bribe'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two persons arrested in a woman repression case have been released by Boalia police in the city after taking bribe, the victim alleged yesterday.

The victim-- Bobby Parveen Reshmi of Tikapara area -- demanded probe into the release and sent two applications to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister seeking redress.

She is now undergoing treatment at the One Stop Crisis Centre at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Talking to newsmen there, she alleged that Boalia thana OC (officer in charge) Aslam Iqbal and SIs Arshed Ali and Hasan Al Mamun, influenced by some BNP leaders, released the accused after taking Tk 60,000 bribe.

The two accused are her father-in-law Abdul Mannan Bhugol and mother-in-law Feroza Begum, Reshmi said.

She also gave copies of the complaints to journalists. Reshmi said she married Mehdi Hasan Bappi of Dari Khorbona area on August 15 last year. Few weeks after the marriage, her husband

started torturing her for Tk one lakh dowry.

She was admitted to the hospital after Mehdi beat her on March 29 at the instigation of his parents, she claimed.

Reshmi filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on March 30 accusing her husband, his father Abdul Mannan Bhugol and mother Feroza Begum.

Sis Hasan Al Mamun and Arshed Ali arrested Abdul Mannan and Feroza Begum hours after filing of the case. But they were released from thana hajat within 18 hours, she alleged.

Police are yet to arrest the main accused, Mehdi.

When contacted, SI Arshed said they were released because "there was no evidence against them".

Asked how they could be sure about his within 18 hours, Arshed said the OC and SI Hasan who are investigating the case can explain the matter better.

When contacted, OC Aslam Iqbal and SI Hasan Al Mamun declined to talk on the matter.

Charmonai Pir's party calls hartal in Barisal city April 8

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Islamic Shashontantra Andolan (JSA), a party led by the Charmonai Pir, has called a day-long hartal in Barisal city on April 8 demanding release of Rezaul Karim, son of the Pir and chairman of Charmonai Union Parishad.

The hartal call was given at a sit-in demonstration by activists of the party in front of Barisal Central Jail yesterday after court rejected Karim's bail prayer.

Rezaul Karim was sent to jail in connection with an abduction case

filed against him.

One Abul Bashar of Charmonai union in Barisal Sadar upazila filed the abduction case against eight persons including him on September 14 in 2002.

A court yesterday granted bail to all the accused except Rezaul Karim.

After the sit-in activists of the party brought out a big procession in the city chanting slogans for Kakim's release and in support of the proposed hartal.



Child artistes presenting a dance at a cultural programme organised by Habiganj Mouchak Kochi Kanchar Mela, held at the Kibria Auditorium in the town recently.

PHOTO: STAR