

Hasina visits Manikganj tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina arrives here tomorrow.

She will address a public meeting at Government Devendra College playground.

AL leaders and workers are making out preparations for her visit.

On contact, Manikganj Police Superintendent Masharraf Hossain Bhuyan said steps have been taken to ensure peaceful holding of her meeting.

Additional forces will be deployed in the town and at the venue, he said.

This will be Hasin's first visit to Manikganj since the government's takeover.

SNAPS

Kalidas Boral murder case begins Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Trial of advocate Kalidas Boral murder case will begin at the Speedy Trial Tribunal here on April 19.

Advocate Kalidas Boral, senior vice president of Bagerhat Awami League, was gunned down on August 20, 2000.

His wife Happy Boral filed an FIR with Bagerhat sadar thana on August 21. The case was transferred to speedy trial tribunal on March 30.

Six out of 22 chargesheeted accused are in jail hajat, 13 are on bail while three are absconding, court sources said.

Dissolution of JCD body demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Several hundred activists of Jatiyatabai Chatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession and held a rally at Dashmina upazila headquarters on Thursday demanding dissolution of the newly formed upazila JCD body.

The rally was addressed by, among others, JCD leaders Shamim Ahmed, Rashedul Hasan, Abdul Kaiyum Ripon, Mahbub Helali, Humayun Ahmed and Abdullah.

They told the rally that the new upazila JCD body, formed without a council, is a pocket committee of district JCD president.

They gave a five-day deadline for its dissolution and threatened of greater agitation for non-compliance.

The newly formed Dashmina JCD, formed on April 3, is headed by Al Amin. The last council the upazila JCD was held in 1990.

New JU proctor

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) Botany Department Assistant Professor Mohammad Ali Akand has been appointed Proctor of the university on temporary basis on Thursday.

The new proctor took over charge at around 10 pm on the day replacing Statistics Department Assistant Professor Moshir Rahman.

Former Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) Joint Secretary, Ali Akand was house tutors in different halls and an assistant proctor of the university.

Eye camp at Bhola

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

About 1,000 eye patients were treated freely at an eye camp held here on Wednesday.

A local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Bondhujon Parishad organised the camp.

REOPENING OF RANGPUR SUGAR MILLS DEMANDED

Mass hunger strike held, hartal in Gaibandha Tuesday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A mass hunger strike, joined by local leaders of all political except ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, was observed on Gaibandha Shaheed Miner premise on Thursday demanding reopening of Rangpur Sugar Mills.

The five-hour token hunger strike was organised jointly by the District Workers and Employees Federation and Bangladesh Sugar Mills Workers Union.

It was followed by a rally, where speakers called upon the people to make the earlier announced April 20 hartal in the district a success to press the government to withdraw the lay-off of the mill.

The government laid off the mill on March 31 on the plea of recurring loss.

Leaders of Awami League (AL), Workers Party, 11-Party Alliance,

Communist Party, Gono Forum, National Awami Party (NAP) joined the mass hunger strike and extended their support to the programmes for reopening of the mill.

The rally, presided over by Habibul Hossain, president of the district Workers and Employees Federation, was addressed by Gaibandha AL President Mohammad Khaled, 11-Party Alliance Convenor Mihir Ghosh, Workers Party Secretary Aminul Islam Golap, NAP President Lutfar Rahman Ranju, CPB central leader Wasiur Rahman Rafel, Bangladesher Samajtantric Dal (BSD) leader Mosadek Hossain Bulbul, Transport Workers Union leader Mahbubur Rahman, Rangpur Sugar Mills Workers Union President Abdul Matin and Jatiya Sanajtantric Dal (JSD) leader Ziaul Huq Jhonny.

They bitterly criticised the govern-

ment for declaring the mill laid-off. This government is closing down mills one after another without creating employment opportunities, they said.

The Rangpur sugar mill incurred losses due to wrong policy, not because of workers and employees.

The mill authorities took a huge amount of loan from the Word Bank and spent it on unproductive heads. The mill incurred losses as it had to bear an annual interest of around Tk three crore on the loans, they said.

By closing down the mill, the government has compelled the workers and employees to go for agitation. The government alone will be responsible for any situation if the mill is not reopened, they said.

Meanwhile, people in Mohimaganj continued to keep black flags hoisted atop houses, shops and private offices protesting the lay-off of the mill.



A 'mass hunger strike' demanding reopening of Rangpur Sugar Mills was organised jointly by the Sugar Mills Workers' Union and the District Workers and Employees Federation at Gaibandha Shaheed Minar on Thursday.

Removal of Barisal war memorial foundation sparks protests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Demolition of a foundation stone, laid in 1997 for building a Liberation War memorial in the city's court area, has evoked strong criticism from people including freedom fighters, political and cultural activists.

The foundation, laid on the Victory Day in 1997 by people defying Section 144 by the then administration, was removed allegedly by the Barisal City Corporation (BCC) on Wednesday night.

Some shop owners in the area claimed that BCC employees and workers removed the foundation along with some big palm trees and completed expansion of a road there overnight for movement of the Prime Minister's convoy.

The Prime Minister on Thursday laid the foundation of a new court complex there.

As the news of demolition of the foundation stone spread in the city

Thursday morning, hundreds of people visited the area and expressed their shock.

Syed Dulal, president of Barisal Sangskritik Shangathon Samanaya Parishad (cultural organizations' coordination committee) expressed his deep shock and said BCC Mayor, who is also convener of the district freedom fighters organization, can not avoid the responsibility for removal of the foundation stone. Its leaders will sit today to decide an agitation programme, sources said.

Advocate Manabendra Botabyal, ex-president of the Barisal Bar Association and the Barisal unit of Udichi, a cultural forum, condemned the incident and demanded immediate restoration of the foundation stone at the same place.

Mintu Bose, president of Kheyali Group Theatre, Manirul Hasan Khan, joint secretary of district Awami League, Prof Mohsinul Islam Habul,

Barisal divisional president of teachers association and leaders of other socio-political and cultural organisations also condemned demolition of the foundation stone and demand its restoration.

In 1997, people protested when BCC had leased the spot for construction of a market.

The lease had sparked agitation by people that led to clashes. After three months' agitation, thousands of people on December 16, 1997, defied Section 144 imposed in the area by the then district administration and laid the foundation for a Liberation War memorial.

A project for building a memorial and a children park there was approved and funds allocated, sources said.

When contacted, BCC Chief Executive Officer Ranjit Kumar Das said they removed the palm trees but not the foundation stone to widen the adjacent road.

Human chains for ouster of govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Manikganj district units of Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) on Wednesday formed separate human chains here demanding ouster of the Four-Party Alliance government.

Awami League formed the human chain at 3 pm which continued till 4 pm. This was followed by a procession led by the party central leader Siddikur Rauf Khan and district unit leaders Golam Mohiuddin and Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim.

Similarly, JSD (Inu) formed another human for an hour which ended at 1 pm. They also brought out a procession and held a rally.

Party joint secretary Iqbal Hossain Khan and its district unit leaders Jibesh Chakraborty and Aslam Khan Babu addressed the rally.

ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE OF STUDENT

JCD activist expelled from SUST

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A JCD activist -- Mahbubul Haque Sadi -- was expelled temporarily from the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) for alleged sexual abuse of a girl student.

The SUST Syndicate took the decision at an emergency meeting Wednesday night. The meeting also formed a six-member committee headed by Dr Jainul Abedin, Dean of Applied Science department, to probe the matter.

The Syndicate met after a Proctorial Committee meeting on the issue on the same day, which suggested permanent expulsion of Sadi, a third year Honours student of Social Science.

The Proctorial Committee had made a preliminary investigation into the allegation after getting a written complaint from the victim, sources in the committee said.

Meanwhile, about 2000 students and teachers formed a human chain, brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the Registrar building on Thursday demanding punishment to

the accused.

Speakers at the rally, who included some teachers, demanded permanent expulsion of the accused and his accomplices and other legal measures against them.

They gave a three-day deadline and threatened of agitation for non-compliance.

The SUAST Teachers Association also demanded action against the accused. The female teachers also handed over a memorandum to the acting Vice-chancellor of the university demanding action against the accused.

The SUST unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir and SUST Press Club members also condemned the incident and demanded action against the accused.

The victim, a second year Honours student of Social Science in her complaint alleged that, Sadi took her to a boarding house in the city's Rikabibazar area on Sunday last on the plea of some urgent talks.

He tortured and sexually abused her while some of his accomplices waited outside the room, she alleged in her complaint.

CLASHES WITH BNP

2 AL men killed in Khulna, Kushtia

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two Awami League (AL) activists were killed in clashes with BNP rivals in Khulna and Kushtia districts on Thursday and Wednesday.

Our Khulna Correspondent reported that Akhtar Shikder, 24, a member of Terokheda upazila Awami League died at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) at 11 am on Thursday.

According to victim's father Iddris Shikder, he was fatally injured at 9-30 am on the day in an armed attack by a group of 'BNP men' at Madhupur village in the aforesaid upazila.

Terokheda thana officer-in-charge (OC) also termed the murder as a sequel to political rivalry.

Five persons named Abid Fakir, Omar Fakir, Kader Fakir, Mofiz Munshi and Idris Fakir were taken into custody.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reported that an Awami League activist was killed and 35 others were injured in a gunfight between BNP and Awami League at Ariakandi village in Sadar upazila, Jhenidah on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Awami

League activist Hafizur Rahman, 25, son of Selun Mollah.

According to police, the clash erupted over stealing of a pump machine from BNP activist Isahrat Mondol's field at Dhanerdia. Isahrat beat the victim on Wednesday evening holding him responsible for the misdeed which happened on Tuesday. On information, the victim's family equipped with lethal weapons rushed to the spot and locked in a gunfight with rivals. The clash left Hafizur dead on the spot injuring 35 of both the groups.

Being informed police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Both the sides fired about 30 gunshots, locals said.

A case was filed with the Sadar police station, but none was arrest till filing of the report on Friday noon.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area. Police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) patrol the area.



Jubo Moitree, Jubo Union and Gano Jubo Forum jointly brought out a procession in Barisal city on Tuesday demanding arrest of Delwar Hossain Saidee MP.

Body found in five pieces in Kushtia

PBCP claims responsibility

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Chuadanga police on Thursday recovered five pieces of a body of a rice mill labourer from Huzukpara village in the Sadar upazila of the district.

The victim was identified as Shajhan Ali, 24, son of Habibur Rahman.

Quoting family sources, police said, a gang of seven armed men stormed into the house of Shajhan on Wednesday night and called him out. He was missing since then.

People found the severed head of Shajhan at a field at Hujukpara and informed police.

Two hours' later, two hands, two legs and another part of the victim's body were found at separate places in the area.

Police gathered the parts and sent those it Chuadanga Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Police said they suspect extra marital affairs of the Shajhan's wife could be the cause behind the killing.

But Shajhan's father Habibur dismissed the idea.

On the other hand, Purbo Banglar

Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddoh) claimed responsibility for the killing.

In a message sent to local journalists it said Shajahn was a cadre of their rival Ashraf Group of Banglar Communist Party.

BCL leader escapes from police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader escaped from police custody here on Monday afternoon.

Barisal district BCL convening committee leader Dollar, 22, fled away from Kotwali police custody by pushing its sentry who opened the gate for giving him food. His mother and uncle brought it from home.

Police hunt was going on for his re-arrest.

A different Pohela Boishakh

Free health camp held at Bauphal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Besides festivities, poor people in Bauphal had something more on the Bangla New Year.

Over 1000 poor people from different areas of the upazila got free treatment and medicine at a day-long health camp held at Nowmala College at Bauphal upazila headquarters.

Twelve doctors from Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital examined the patients at the camp, organised by the Bauphal Upazila Samitee, a local non-political social welfare organisation.

It was opened by local BNP lawmaker Shahidul Alom Talukder. He also opened the newly constructed second floor of the college building.

JU admission tests begin today

JU CORRESPONDENT

The tests for admission in first year honours courses under 2003-'04 academic session in the university begin today and will continue till April 26.

The tests for admission in Electronics and Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics departments under KA unit (Science faculty) will be held today while those of Environmental Science Geological Science, Statistics and Chemistry departments will be held tomorrow.

The schedule for tests in other departments are as follows.

GHA unit (Life-Science Faculty)-April 19 and 20, KHA unit (Social Science Faculty)-April 21, 22 and 24, GA unit (Arts faculty)-April 25 and 26.

About 42,192 admission seekers are likely to vie for 1,100 seats in 24 departments under four faculties.

The tests will be held in five shifts from 9 am to 5 pm everyday while all classes and examinations will remain closed during the period.