

SNAPS

Alleged thief beaten up at JU hall

JU CORRESPONDENT
Resident students of AL Baruni Hall beat up an outsider inside the hall on Thursday night for his alleged involvement in theft.

The students caught the outsider, Faisal, an inhabitant of Tongi, with a cell-phone set which was stolen on April 14 from Room No 1202 of the hall and took him to the room and beat up there at around 12 am. He was released at 4 am.

A total of 12 cell-phone sets were stolen during the month of April from different male and female dormitories.

"A syndicate has been conducting this type of incident on the campus under the shelter of some Jatiyatahadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders," said a student performing anonymously.

2 suspected bomb attackers beaten in Khulna: 1 killed

BSS, Khulna
One person was killed and another injured seriously by mob at Munshipara in the city on Saturday morning.

The victims were suspects of a possible bomb attack on the house of a local ward commissioner.

Acting on an information police recovered four bombs from Munshipara near the house of ward commissioner Shafiqul Alam Manna in the morning. They also deployed plainclothes policemen in the area to keep watch around the house. At about 8.30 am, members of the vigilance team with the help of local people caught two youths, who were searching in the area where the bombs were kept hidden.

The youths were beaten by mob and one of them died on way to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Indo-Bangla JRC team visits Teesta Barrage

Priority of Bangladesh on legal share of water of the common river

Our Correspondent, Nilphamari

A special team of the Bangladesh-India Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) on Friday afternoon visited the Teesta Barrage and its project area.

The JRC team comprised 10 members with five from each country. The Indian team was headed by water specialist MML Goel and the Bangladeshi team was headed by Tawhidul Anwar Khan.

A source in the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) told this correspondent Bangladesh gives priority on ensuring legal share of water of the Teesta

because Bangladesh is going to start work on the second phase of the Tk 1,200 cr Teesta Irrigation Project this year. After completion of the work the demand of water in Bangladesh will rise to 45,000 cusec. Now the availability of water is only one fifth of Bangladesh needs in the dry season.

Earlier, the JRC team visited the Gozaloba Barrage in India built at the upstream of the Teesta.

The team reached the Teesta Barrage Project area at 5 pm on Friday through Burimari Land Port of Bangladesh in Lalmonirhat district.

On arrival, the team visited the main Teesta Barrage and its opera-

tion system. Then the team visited the main canal of the Teesta Irrigation Project (TIP).

On Saturday, the team visited the Kaunia area in Rangpur district which was also brought under irrigation project. On conclusion of their visit the team left for Dhaka on Saturday.

In Dhaka a two-day JRC meeting on sharing of river water is scheduled to be held from Saturday.

Under first phase of the Teesta Irrigation Project, in the dry season Bangladesh needed 10,000 cusec of water for irrigation purpose in three districts.

40 killed in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 40 persons were injured in a clash over damage of paddy plants by a cow between two groups of villagers in Akhaura upazila on Thursday.

According to eye-witnesses and hospital sources, a cow of Hasem Mia at Ranikhar village damaged paddy plants of Motiur Rahman's land at Gulkar village. Being furious Motiur Rahman's son Kazi Ruman and his group started beating Hasem in the field. At once both the groups armed with lethal weapons locked in a clash that lasted for hours together.

Of them 12 persons of both the groups sustained injuries. Hasem's condition was stated to be critical. He had been undergoing treatment in Akhaura Health Complex.

A tense situation prevails in the area as both the groups are getting prepared for a fiercer clash.

No case was filed till filing of the report on Sunday morning.

Pledge to uphold rights of working people

May Day observed in districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The historic May Day was observed in all districts of the country with a pledge to uphold the rights of working people.

Various political parties, trade unions, labour and socio-cultural organisations in various district towns chalked out elaborate programmes including hoisting of national and labour-flags atop the offices of trade unions and labour organisations, discussion meetings, rallies and cultural functions to mark the day.

BSS reported that in Rajshahi city labour organisations of different political parties like Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Jatiya Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Workers Party of Bangladesh held separate discussion meetings at their offices.

In the morning, local units of bus, truck, minibuses, tempo and mishuk labourers unions took out separate processions which paraded the main city streets. The procession was followed by discussion and milad mahfil at their offices.

In observance of the day 'Anushilon Nattiya Shilpi', a cultural

organisation, organised a discussion on the premises of Court Shaheed Minar on Saturday morning.

The leaders and members of the Imarat Nirman Shramik Association of Bangladesh (INSAB) brought out a procession that paraded the city streets which was followed by a milad mahfil at its office in the afternoon on the day.

Rajshahi Union of Journalists (RUJ) and Rajshahi City Press Club observed the day through separate programmes including discussion meeting.

In Khulna, BNP district and city unit jointly organised a rally in the afternoon. Mayor of Khulna City Sheikh Tayebur Rahman addressed the rally as chief guest. President of BNP City unit president Mohammad Nurul Islam presided over the rally while whip of Jatiya Sangsad Ashraf Hossain, former chairman of Khulna Municipality Gazi Shahidullah, secretary of BNP city unit Nazrul Islam Manju and district BNP leader Advocate Shafiqul Alam, among others, addressed the rally.

The rally was followed by a colourful procession that paraded several streets in the city. BNP also arranged a cultural function at Maharaj Chattrar this evening.

Divisional office of the Labour Directorate also held a discussion today. With joint director of Labour Directorate Mohammad Rejaul Haq in the chair the discussion was addressed by the leaders of different labour organisations.

Jatiya Sramik Federation and Jatiya Sramik League also held rallies and brought out processions on the occasion of May Day.

Another report from Rangpur reported that May Day was observed in northern region with enthusiasm.

Different political parties, working groups brought out colourful rallies, held discussions and cultural functions to mark the day in Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra, Rajshahi and Pabna districts.

Terming the working class as the 'driving force' of the national economy the labour leaders said, "Development of a nation is not possible without the development of condition of the working class."

The leaders also laid emphasis on greater unity among the working people to establish their legal rights.

Similar stories of celebration of May Day in other districts was still pouring in till writing of this report on Sunday morning.

Traditional mats on the wane

Parshuram in Feni district was once famous for mats. At present the name and fame of the traditional mats have lost to a great extent.

Lots of mats were produced at Nathpara of Parshuram and the products were exported to various destinations and even beyond the boundary of the country.

But now most of the Hindu artisans here have deserted their age-old traditional profession and switched over to other professions to earn a living.

However, despite the hard reality a few ones still stick to their profession out of love for the profession.

Rakhal Nath is such an artisan. He disclosed that the value of mats of Parshuram had been decreasing gradually. Previously the mats made of locally called 'Morta' were grown in abundance everywhere. But nowadays there is dearth of 'Morta'. Many people now sell 'Morta' and earn something. It can be cultivated easily and its demand can be met fully if

the government patronises its cultivation, Rakhal Nath told in a feeble voice.

Actually 'Morta' is a kind of grass called Harigata plant, Mottak Partygach, Patipata or Paitta in different places. The plant grows naturally beside roads, jungles, water bodies or on hilly lands.

Another 55 years old artisan named Hiralal informed the outer portion of the plant is usually taken out of the main plant which is hen coloured. Afterwards, the weaving of mats starts. Usually two to three days are required to make a mat, he said. He makes four to five mats with the help of his wife, he disclosed. Every Thursday he takes the mats to Parshuram bazaar for sell. He sells a mat at the rate of 250 to 300 taka. He earns Tk 3,000-4,000 per month by selling mats. He also sells the mats at various bazaars in remote areas of the district.

Lack of patronisation from government and non-governmental organisations, dearth of 'Morta' and



An artisan showing a mat to a prospective buyer at Parshuram bazaar in Feni.

people's unwillingness to use mats have attributed to ruination of this traditional cottage industry. As a

result, the valuable mate making industry faces extinction.

--- Courtesy: Mass Line

Interest-free credit, grants for acid survivors

BSS, Patuakhali

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury distributed interest-free credit and grants to acid survivors and physically handicapped people in Sadar upazila here.

While handing over the cheques and grant money on Friday, he said the government has taken programmes to rehabilitate acid victims and provide them small credits to help their rehabilitation in the mainstream of development.

Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mujahed and local leaders of the Four-party Alliance were present at the function held at the upazila parishad auditorium.

A total of 660,000 taka was distributed among 63 physically handicapped persons and acid victims as well as 30 voluntary organisations of Sadar upazila. The money was given under a rehabilitation programme of the government for acid victims and ultra poor people.



Missing

A 13-year-old boy named Md Sharif alias Bhuiyan, son of late Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan of Kunja Sreepur village under Choudhagram police station was missing from Nankora Madrasah since April 11, 2004.

He has pointed ears with fair complexion.

Anybody knowing whereabouts of the missing boy is requested to contact Md Elias of The Daily Star, Dhaka or through mobile phone numbers 0189610781 and 0189680658.

Relief distributed among tornado victims

BSS, Mymensingh

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain visited tornado-hit Othura area in Bhaluka upazila on Friday.

During the visit, the state minister distributed corrugated iron (CI) sheets, rice and other relief goods among tornado-affected villagers.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Alamgir Hossain, leaders of the BNP and concerned officials were present.

The tornado cut a swathe through different areas of Bhaluka, Trishal and Fulbaria upazilas, flattening houses and standing crops and uprooting trees on April 18.

The disaster management and relief ministry has allotted 105 bundles of CI sheets, 70 metric tons of rice, 70,000 taka in cash and 70,000 taka for repairing houses for the storm-hit villagers of Bhaluka upazila, official sources said.

A laudable initiative by Shishu Academy

Move to project life and work of prominent personalities: 99th birth day of noted educationist Asir Uddin Ahmed celebrated



A partial view of the memorial meeting on legendary figure and prominent educationist late Asir Uddin Ahmed (inset) at Nilphamari on Friday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Bangladesh Shishu Academy has undertaken a laudable initiative to project the life and work of celebrated personalities to the progeny here.

The memorial meeting began with celebration of the 99th birth anniversary of prominent educationist Shikhyaguru Asir Uddin Ahmed on the premises of over a century-old Nilphamari Government Boys' High School on Friday.

Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shafi-ul-Alam was present as the chief guest while former Headmaster of Gano Bhaban Government High School, Dhaka Begum Hasina Joarder, who is also the eldest daughter of Asir Uddin Ahmed was special guest. Ex-Headmaster of Nilphamari Government Boys' High School and Ahmed's former student Abdul Jabbar was the key-note speaker.

In his address Abdul Jabbar told that Asir Uddin Ahmed crossed the boundary of his school to enlighten the general mass. Whenever Asir Uddin appeared before two feuding groups, at once the two rival groups moved their heads downwards and embraced each other forgetting their past enmity.

He will be ever remembered for the dignity he showed to his noble profession of teaching during his entire lifetime. 'He embodied himself as a symbol of a dignified

teacher to whom anyone can always follow' told Jabbar during his key-note speech. 'Thousands of his beloved students are now serving at home and abroad with name and fame', he added.

He finally suggested a research work on the life and activities of the great teacher.

In his address as chief guest Nilphamari DC Shafi-ul-Alam told that after his joining as the DC here he came to know about Asir Uddin Ahmed as a legend. He told that life of a man is short, but there are great people who are a few in number to whom death cannot take away from the hearts of people. Asir Uddin will be ever remembered for self-less dedication of his life to spread the light of education all-over, he said. He will remain alive from time immemorial for his golden deeds, he further told the audience. 'I wish I could be a student of the great teacher, but being unable to become so I have come to this memorial meeting to quench my thirst', the DC lamented.

In her address as a special guest Hasina Joarder told that her great father was a personality who was far ahead of his time. Terming him as a person of indomitable personality, she said that her father was not only an educationist but also a woman's right activist. Back in the 1950's when women were still closed within the four walls she was rearing his girl children in a modern way. 'My father inspired me and my two

younger sisters to stand on our feet taking higher education from university in a very conservative society'. While narrating her celebrated father's talent she revealed that Asir Uddin Ahmed secured the second place in honours examination in Mathematics from Calcutta University in undivided Bengal. Not only that he came out successful in the tough competitive examination of Bengal Civil Service during the British rule of India. But he preferred the noble profession of teaching to civil service. Though he was appointed a jailor, yet he embraced teaching out of love and affection to young people. Afterwards, he dedicated his entire life to enlighten children and juveniles, Hasina disclosed.

'The mystery of my father's success was that he taught each and every student like his own child, she told the gathering mostly young ones.

Mofizul Islam, another discussant, also Headmaster of Sonarai Sangalsi High School told that Asir Uddin termed failure of any student as a failure of a teacher.

The meeting was followed by a quiz competition on the life and works of Asir Uddin where children and young students took part. The entire session concluded with feeding of sweets to children and others.

Snatched truck rescued, missing helper yet to be traced

JU CORRESPONDENT

A rod-laden truck which was snatched by unidentified miscreants on Tuesday was found empty and rescued from Narsingdi on Friday, three days after the incident.

The Dhaka-bound truck loaded with Tk 5 lakh rod was snatched away at Hemayetpur in Savar. A group of 10/12 unidentified miscreants put up a barricade and snatched away the truck stabbing its driver Alam, 33. They also abducted Ujjal, helper of the truck.

Shakil Akhter, owner of the truck said the truck was found empty at Panchdona in Narsingdi.

The abducted helper remains missing.



Rupan Kanti Shil, ADC (General), Jhenidah addressing a seminar on Education for All organised by the local zonal office of Dhaka Ahsania Mission held at the Sadar Upazila auditorium in Jhenidah on April 25. Area coordinator Sultana Razia is also seen.