

## SUST reopens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) will reopen today after a month of unscheduled closure. The university was closed sine die following death of the university unit JCD joint secretary Rafiqul Islam Patwary Liton, also a final year student, in a factional clash. Within hours of the killing, the university authorities asked the resident students to vacate their dormitories apprehending further violence. The authorities imposed ban on rallies and processions on the campus for six months. Thirteen JCD leaders and activists including its university unit vice president and general secretary were expelled on different terms by the university Syndicate last week after receiving a probe committee report. The probe body suggested expulsion of all involved in the murder.

## Sec 144 at Shaikupa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police have been deployed at Saikupa upazila headquarter in Jhenidah district as a tension mounted following Thursday's row between rival BNP factions over calling public meetings at the same venue. The local administration clamped Section 144 at the upazila headquarter for an indefinite period to stave off violence at rival BNP factions called meetings there at the same time on Thursday. According to police, supporters belonging to former lawmaker from Saikupa Abdul Wahab called a meeting at the upazila Freedom Fighters Club on Thursday. Supporters of Saikupa Pouroshava Chairman Kahililur Rahman, also a BNP leader, also called a meeting at the same venue at the same time. Sources in the local administration said they clamped Section 144 as all attempts to resolve the crisis failed.



Journalists in Patuakhali, with faces covered with black cloth, brought out a silent procession in the town yesterday protesting torture of colleagues in Baufal and Borhanuddin.

## Stop torture on journos, punish culprits

### Silent procession in Patuakhali; memo to DC; Baufal Press Club still locked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Journalists and other employees of different dailies, sporting black clothes on faces, brought out a silent procession in the town yesterday protesting torture on journalist Monjur Morshed in Baufal allegedly by BNP activists sheltered by local lawmaker Shahidul Alam Talukder on August 8. They also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding punishment of the culprits. The procession started at about 11 am from in front of Patuakhali Press Club. It was led by Press Club

Vice-president Sapan Banarzi and its secretary Abu Zafor Khan. About 100 journalists and other employees took part in the procession. The processionists converged in front of the DC's office and submitted a memorandum for punishment to BNP lawmaker Sahidul Alam Talukder and his 'cadres' who were involved to the torture. They also demanded removal of the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Baufal thana who failed nab any the culprits and ensure security of journalists. Meanwhile reports reaching here from Baufal said activists of ruling BNP were giving threat to journalists by visiting their houses.

Mentionably, Monzur Morshed, Correspondent of Dhaka-based Daily Jugautor was beaten allegedly by BNP lawmaker Shahidul Alam Talukder on August 8 on the upazila office premises for publishing a news on looting of 100 maunds jhatka (small Hilsha fish) by some BNP activists. The fishes were seized by Bauhfal Upazila Nirbali Officer (UNO) Nurun Nabi from a launch terminal there. Earlier, Patuakhali Press Club held a protest meeting on August 11. Our Barisal Correspondent adds: The Baufal Press Club remained closed yesterday as journalists were on their heels due to alleged threats by BNP activists. Reports from Bhola said Bhola said Bohamuddin thana police have finally recorded the case filed by journalist Shimul Chowdhury four days after he was tortured allegedly by BNP activists loyal to the local lawmaker.

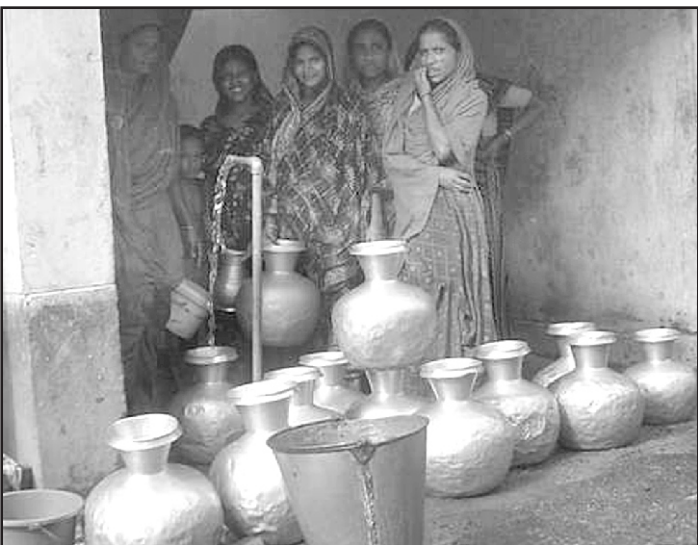
The case has been recorded as a criminal case, following pressure from the administration and local journalists. On the other hand, Shimul Chowdhury, allegedly tortured in Borhanuddin in Bhola district, in an open letter to the journalist community of the country said regional daily Ajker Barta authority sacked him as staff reporter of the paper. Shimul, joint secretary of Borhanuddin Press Club, was abducted on August 7 and tortured by BNP activists after publication of a report in Ajker Barta on alleged corruption Abdul Malek, a contractor and close aide to the local lawmaker. Shimul's torture triggered protests by Barisal Reporters Unity, which observed programmes including a protest rally in Barisal city on August 11.

### DIVISIONAL MEET IN BARISAL

## Municipal staff place 11-pt demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Employees of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) and municipalities in Barisal division at a meeting here yesterday called upon the government to meet their 11-point demand immediately. Jahangir Molla, president of Bangladesh City and Pouro Karmachari Federation, presided over the meeting, held at the BCC conference room. BCC Mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP was the chief guest. Mosharraf Hossain, general secretary of the Federation and its leaders Harun Mia, Aziz Shahin,



Severe water crisis has gripped the 40,000 residents of Bandarban town as the municipal authorities supply only one fourth of the demand for 16 lakh gallons a day.

# Ministry sits on Tk 5.7 cr herbal garden project

## BTB proposed using 5000 hectares of fallow tea garden lands

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

An ambitious plan of Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB) to raise herbal gardens in fallow tea garden lands to produce import substitute medicinal raw materials is gathering dust at the Commerce Ministry for about a year.

There are around 1,14,000 hectares of land under tea gardens in the country, of which only 54,000 hectares are under tea plantation. Excluding the areas for factories, staff and labour quarters, clinics, schools and other establishments, about 5,000 hectares now unutilised can be made available for raising gardens of herbal and aromatic plants, according to BTB sources.

They said, the Tk 5.17 crore project was submitted to the ministry in October last year. It included a Tk 3.25 crore plan for setting up two processing plants. The project was submitted after detailed discussions with garden owners, scientists and some herbal medicine companies at several workshops. A feasibility study was also conducted by the BTB prior to the discussions.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) agreed to finance the project with loans on nine percent interest, the sources said.

BTB sources said their planned project includes raising 550 species of herbal plants and trees in the gardens.

Bangladesh now imports about 58 lakh tonnes of herbal raw materials worth about Tk 300 crore every year to meet the demand of 215 Unani, 204 Ayurvedic and 77 homeopathic medicine manufacturing companies and other small units using herbal plants as main raw materials.

Much of the demand could be met if the fallow lands of tea gardens could be brought under plantation of herbal and aromatic plants, they said.

The project was prepared follow-

### 3 Indian fishermen held, boat seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans on Wednesday held three Indian fishermen while they were fishing in the Ichchhamati near Bhatshala in Debhata upazila inside the Bangladesh territory. They also seized a boat and fishing materials from them.

The arrested are Biswanath Mondal, 35, son of Gopal Chandra Mondal, Sahadev Kumar Mondal, 25, son of Kalipada Mondal and Pratap Kumar Mondal, 20, son of Gobinda Mondal of Hariharpur village in Bashirhat Thana under 24 Parganas in West Bengal.

BDR and Police sources said, BDR jawans handed over them to Debhata police along with the seized the boat and fishing materials.



The 'central' nursery of herbal plants at Srimongol raised by Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI). It was set up with a view to supplying saplings to gardens under BTB's proposed project.

The Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI) at Srimangal has set up two nurseries with 50,000 herbal saplings. Former commerce minister Ameer Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury inaugurated the nurseries on August 2003.

Besides, 10 tea gardens in Moulvibazar district, including Balishira, Patrokhola, Satgaon,

Dinarpur and M R Khan, have planted saplings of herbal plants in unutilised lands on their own initiative. This initiative will ultimately bear no fruit because setting up of the proposed processing plants have become uncertain, they said.

11x3

5x3

8x3