



PHOTO: STAR/FOCUS BANGLA

Marun Bazar in Khagrachhari (left) and people negotiating chest-deep flood water on Feni-Parshuram road yesterday.

'Killers' of Sust student back on campus

No progress in probe in 2 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Law enforcers could not arrest any of the killers of Liton, a student of Shahjalal university of Science and Technology (SUST), about two years after the incident.

The alleged killers are moving freely, campus sources claimed.

Rafiqul Islam Pathway Liton was vice-president of Sust unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student front BNP.

Hailing from a village in Chaghalnaiya upazila in Feni district, Liton was the only brother of five sisters. He lost their father in his boyhood.

Liton, a student of Masters in Social Science, was beaten in front of hundreds of students and teachers near the administrative building on July 13, 2005. It was the first political killing on the Sust.

As he came out of examination hall at about 5 pm, a group of JCD cadres swooped on him near the

Gol Chatter on the campus. They hit him with iron rods and hockey sticks and took him to the employees' canteen, where they beat him again, leaving him unconscious.

Sources said earlier that hundreds of students and teachers witnessed the incident, but none dared to come to his rescue.

Liton was rushed to nearby Rabig-Rabeya Medical College and Hospital, wherefrom he was shifted to Osmani Medical College and Hospital.

He died after hours.

The Sust authorities filed a case with Kotwali police station. But there has not been any meaningful progress in the investigation, sources claimed.

The Sust authorities expelled 13 students for one or two semesters, which some sources claimed to be a lenient punishment. Most of them are backed on the campus on expiry of their expulsion periods.

PROPOSED TOWN PROTECTION DAM Survey team visits project site in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A survey team from the Planning Commission yesterday visited the site of proposed Patuakhali Town Protection Project, planned about 10 years ago to top protect the coastal town from flooding and tidal surge.

The team led by Joint Chief of Planning Commission Hamidur Rahman, visited different areas of the proposed project and exchanged views with local people, journalist and district officials. The team came to Patuakhali on Friday.

Hamidur Rahman told journalists at the Circuit House that work on the project would start soon.

"We hope to start work in the current financial year (2007-2008) considering its importance", he said.

"We have already completed feasibility study at a cost of Tk 35 lakh", he added.

He said the project would be completed on priority basis.

The project profile would be send to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) soon for approval, Hamidur said.

Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner AGM Mir Moshiur Alam, Water Development Board Executive Engineer Zahid Uddin Ahmed and acting chairman of Patuakhali Pourasabha Abu Zafar Mansuddin also spoke on the occasion.

The Patuakhali Town Protection Embankment-cum-Drainage Project involving Tk 17 crore was taken up 10 years ago after a visit by the then agriculture minister Majid-Ul-Haque.

Patuakhali town is surrounded by Lawkathi river on the north and Loholia river on the east. Water from the rivers roll into the town during high tide, tidal surge and flood.

The project includes construction of 4.20 km flood control embankment, eight drains, eight

sluice gates, 38 out lets, one km wall and installation of four power pumps.

Earlier, a team from water resources ministry visited Patuakhali in January last year and submitted a report highlighting importance of a town protection embankment.

Lady doctor commits 'suicide'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Mystery shrouded unnatural death of a lady doctor in Rajshahi Friday night.

Dr Sulata Rani Pramanik, 33, a medical officer, of Marie Stopes Clinic allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself with a ceiling fan at her residence in Hatem Kha Boro Mosjid area in the city.

Victim's five-year-old child saw the mother's hanging body at first and shouted. Inmates of the house immediately rushed there and recovered the body by breaking open the door.

Later, they informed the matter to Boalia police who recovered the body and sent it to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Dr Sulata's husband Dr Subroto Pramanik, also a physician working with RMCH was away from his house at the time of the incident.

On contact, Boalia Police Station sub-inspector (SI) Manjurul Haque said family feud might be the reason of the incident.

Terming the death 'mysterious', he said police investigation is going on.

An unnatural death (UD) case was recorded with Boalia Police Station yesterday.

17 jailed for killing Rajshahi BNP leader

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal has sentenced 17 people to varying jail terms in BNP leader Dulal Sheikh murder case.

Dulal Sheikh of Kishorepur village in Bagha upazila was murdered on July 19, 2003. His body with marks of was recovered from a sugar case field.

Judge ATM Mesbaudullah pronounced the verdict in a packed court room on Thursday.

Of the convicts, eight were sentenced to 10 years RI, five to seven years and four persons to three years imprisonment.

The eight convicts who got 10 years RI are Mofiz Uddin, Hafizul Islam, Shahidul Islam, Ajdar, Shahadul, Sumon, Abdur Rashid

and Nowshad.

The five who were given seven years imprisonment are Muhammad Aslam (absconding), Mamun-ur-Rashid, Maksudur Rahman alias Shohel, Abdul Majed and Ayub Ali.

The court also sentenced four absconding accused to three years' imprisonment. They are Kawsar, Habibullah alias Prince, Shamim and Ripon.

The victim's brother Abdus Salam filed a murder case with Bhaga thana a day after the murder. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted charge sheet on November 20, 2004 accusing 20 people.

Twenty-three witnesses were examinee by the court.

Vow to remove dowry, early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a unique day yesterday for over 150 adolescent girls and their guardians when they vowed to remove early marriage and dowry from society.

They joined hands to raise voice against the social curse at a function held at Binerpota in Sadar upazila.

The programme was organised to mark the fourth founding anniversary of 'Amar Sonar Paribar', an NGO working for eradication of early marriage and dowry. The project was launched four years ago.

An elaborate programme was chalked out to mark the occasion. The programme included rally, discussion and cultural function.

The discussion was held at the Rishilpi auditorium at Binerpota with assistant director Syed Hasan Mahmud in the chair.

Speakers praised Rishilpi for its success in removing early marriage and dowry from society where literacy rate is poor and the age-old superstition still prevails.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA
Rescued DANIDA official Hossain Shahid Sumon with his two sons at a press conference at Chittagong cantonment yesterday after treatment at the CMH. Sumon, abducted from Khagrachhari hills on June 25 was rescued on July 8.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested alleged arms trader Altaf Uddin and recovered 9 MM pistol, a revolver, 261 bullets and gun power from his house at Bandar Bazar in Sylhet city Friday night.

CLOSED PEOPLES JUTE MILLS Terminated workers to get all arrears next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) will pay the entire amount of Tk 187 crore by next month (August) against arrear wages, salaries and other financial benefits of workers and employees of Peoples Jute Mills.

The state-owned mill at Khalishpur will be finally closed from August 1. All its workers and employees were terminated earlier by the government.

Besides, government will allocate Tk 1200 crore for smooth running of 18 jute mills in the country out of which Tk 138 crore is likely to be available as bank loan, sources said yesterday.

From this financial allocation and bank loan, government has

decided to allocate more Tk 200 crore for these jute mills to purchase raw jute, said Director (Finance) of BJMC Md Harisuddin who came to Khulna on Friday at the head of a three-member team to visit all state-owned jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt.

Two other members of the BJMC team are General Manager (Admin) Md Abu Saeed and Deputy General Manager (Marketing) Nafisa Ranjana Roy.

They held an emergency meeting from 5 pm to 8.30 pm on Friday at the zonal office of BJMC. It was attended by all high officials and general managers of all the eight state-owned jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt.

Members of the BJMC team yesterday visited the jute mills and held meetings separately with their general managers.

The Director (Finance) of BJMC who is heading the three-member team did not say if arrear wages of terminated workers of other jute mills would at all be paid or not.

A total of 5,427 workers of five out of eight state-owned jute mills have so far been retrenched by BJMC.

Police on Thursday forced members and volunteers of the newly formed National Relief Committee (NRC) to close two gruel kitchens opened at Khalishpur to provide members of workers' families of Peoples Jute Mills and Platinum Jute Mwth cooked rice and lentil.

NRC co-ordinator Alamgir Kabir Friday evening alleged that police raided houses of volunteers and beat up some of them for distributing food at gruel kitchens.

The discussion was held at the Rishilpi auditorium at Binerpota with assistant director Syed Hasan Mahmud in the chair.

Sathkhira Ladies Club chairperson Sadiq Afroz attended as chief guest while Bangabandhu Peshbhikit High School headmis-

ress Laila Parvin Sejuti was present as special guest.

Speakers stressed on creating mass awareness against early marriage and dowry. They also underscored the need for marriage registration.

They said lack of knowledge about bad effects of early marriage, religious superstition, ignorance and lack of social awareness as the main reasons behind early marriage and marriage without registration.

They said early marriage and dowry were behind repression on women which is a common incident in the country. They urged villagers to work for elimination of the social curse.

Speakers praised Rishilpi for its success in removing early marriage and dowry from society where literacy rate is poor and the age-old superstition still prevails.

AL leader held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An Awami League (AL) leader has been arrested from a hotel in Khulna, police said.

Joint forces arrested

Shyamnagar upazila AL joint secretary Prof Rafiqur Rahman, also chairman of Gabura Union Parishad (UP), Friday night. But the reason behind the arrest is still unknown. He was handed over to Sadar police yesterday.

On contact, Satkhira

Superintendent of Police (SP) Mirza Abdullahe Baki confirmed the arrest.

Erratum

In a news item headlined 'Ex-RU Syndicate member demands removal of VC', published on July 9, the name of Prof Fayekuzzaman was printed instead of Prof Fakruzzaman. The inadvertent mistake is regretted.