



Zainul's birth anniversary begins in Mymensingh tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A three-day programme will begin here tomorrow observance of the 93rd birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin.

The programmes will start with a children's painting competition on the premises of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala in Shaheb Quarter Park area. Dulal Chandra, Assistant Keeper of the art gallery, will inaugurate the painting competition.

A discussion on life and work of the great artist will be held on December 29. Samr Chandra Pal, Director General of National Museum, will attend the concluding day programme as chief guest with Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner Md. Shamsul Alam in the chair. Police Superintendent Md. Rafiqul Islam will also attend the function.

Artist Amirul Islam, a former professor of Mymensingh Teachers Training College and poet Farid Ahmed Dulal, secretary of Swaranta Sahitya Patra will participate.

Zainul Abedin was born in Kishoreganj on December 29, 1914. He died on May 28, 1976 at a hospital in Dhaka.

Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala is an institution that preserved the works of the great artist. Zainul spent his childhood days in Mymensingh town.

The art museum has 74 pieces of Zainul's paintings including 58 original works of the great artist.

The Sangrahashala was inaugurated on April 15, 1975 by the then vice-president Syed Nazrul Islam on the bank of the Old Bramaputra river. Dr. Kazi Motahar Hossain and Prof. Abdur Razzaq, among others, were present at the opening session.

On May 2, 1992, 17 of his paintings were stolen from the museum. Ten of them were recovered in Dhaka in the same year.

Crimes decline in 10 southwestern dists

14 murders in November against 40 in October, 43 in September

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Crimes including murder, extortion and abduction declined in November compared to the previous month in ten southwestern districts, known as crime prone areas.

Other crimes like robbery, mugging, rape and bomb attack also showed a downslide, sources in law enforcing agencies claimed.

They said the improvement in law an order was due to heightened vigilance by all law enforcers including army and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Fourteen murders took place in the region during November against 40 in October and 43 in September, the sources said.

Other crimes also declined. Four incidents of abduction, eight robberies, two bombings and three rape incidents took place in November. No murder incident was reported in three

districts-- Meherpur, Bagerhat and Magurain in the region in November, the sources claimed.

The other seven districts under review are Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Narail, Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira.

Of the 14 murders in November, four each took place in Kushtia and Jhenidah; one each in Jessore, Narail, Khulna and Satkhira; and two in Chuadanga.

Only four murders took place in the region in the first 16 days of December-- two of them in Kushtia and one each in Jhenidah and Meherpur.

Two alleged criminals were killed in 'crossfire' with police in the month against four in October.

"Most of the criminals have either fled their areas or went into hiding following vigilance by law enforcers," said a high police official in Khulna over phone.

But a large number of criminals including hardened 'listed' outlaws are evading arrest despite all out attempts by law enforcers including Rab in last three years, the sources said. Some of them have fled the country, they added.

A good number of cadres of outlawed parties and gang groups and as many were killed in 'crossfire' in the region in last three years.

At least 482 crossfire incidents took place in the 10 districts in last three and half-years since June 2004.

Of those, 158 were killed during June-December in 2004; 117 in 2005; 126 in 2006 and the rest 81 were killed till December 16 this year.

At least 13 outlawed parties and 15 gang groups are active in the 10 districts. Together, they have about 2000 cadres possessing about 1000 illegal arms.

New body formed to rehabilitate FFs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A new organisation has been floated at Moheshpur aiming at rehabilitating destitute and maimed freedom fighters.

The organization titled, 'Muktir Uddoj' started its activities giving financial support to two poor freedom fighters.

A function was held at Moheshpur Pura Auditorium on Saturday. Shrab Uddin, coordinator of Muktir Uddoj gave away Tk 15,000 to two freedom fighters, Mahtab, Uddin and Shamsul Haq. Mahtab, Uddin was a rickshaw-puller while Shamsul Haq was jobless.

Shafikul Azam Khan, Poura chairman, former Muktiujdah commander Nurul Islam, Abu Taleb, convener of Muktiujdah Thana unit and other freedom fighters were present at the function.

Trawler sinks with relief goods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A relief materials-loaded trawler sank in the Bhadra river in Dakop upazila on Monday.

The relief goods included six tonnes of rice, 80 new blankets, 40 lungis and 50 sarees, donated by Ramkrishna Asram of Dhaka for Sidr victims in Sharankhola.

The caretaker of the Ramkrishna Asram filed a general diary in this connection with Dakop police station in the evening.

The sunken trawler could not be salvaged till 6pm yesterday, the officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station said.

6 journo get Mymensingh Press Club Award

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Mymensingh Press Club yesterday awarded the 'Best Reporter of the Year Award' to six journalists for the years 2005-'06.

Aminul Islam, Mymensingh correspondent of The Daily Star won the 'Best Reporter' award for the year 2005.

Ataul Karim Khokon, Bureau Chief of The Daily Jugantor and Md Babul Hossain, Staff Reporter of Janakantha got second and third prizes respectively.

Earlier a discussion was held at the club auditorium with AZM Imam Uddin Mukta, vice-president of the club in the chair. Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Md Shamsul Alam attended the function held at the club auditorium as chief guest. He distributed prizes among the winners.

Chandpur Mohila College ex-students' re-union held

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

The first re-union of former students of Chandpur Government Mohila College was held on the college campus yesterday.

Rokeya Quader, wife of the founder president of the college and ex-sub-divisional officer (SDO) of Chandpur and valiant freedom fighter late Nurul Quader Khan was the chief guest while Deputy Commissioner SM Monirul Islam, Principal Iqbal Hossain of Chandpur Government College and Chandpur Pourasabha chairman Nasir Uddin Ahmed Bhuiyan were present as special guests.

Abdur Rahim, principal of the college presided.

71 clinics out of 96 in CHT illegal

Brokers move at government hospitals to woo patients to private clinics

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Seventy-one clinics are operating illegally in 25 upazillas in three hill districts.

According to civil surgeon's offices in Khagrachhari, Bandarban and Rangamati, there are 96 clinics in the three districts. Only 25 are registered and the rest 71 are unregistered and operating without government authorisation or license.

Depending on these clinics, pathological laboratories and diagnostic centers have mushroomed, which are cashing in on patients' plight. Most of the clinics are manned by a section of government doctors.

Brokers move in freely at government hospitals to woo patients to private clinics, sources alleged. A section of nurses and other staff at government hospitals also work as brokers, many patients and their attendants alleged while talking to this correspondent recently.

During this correspondent

visits to one such private clinic in Khagrachhari town, some patients said they had to spend a lot of money for so many diagnostics tests which are seemingly unnecessary. But they are not getting proper treatment, they alleged.

During this correspondent's visit to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital, Bandarban Zilla Sadar Hospital and three other upazilla health complexes in Khagrachhari, some brokers admitted that they are paid to lure patients to private clinics.

Broker Mahim said he gets between Tk 200 and 250 from a clinic for luring a patient. "It is the lone source of income for my family."

But he does not think it illegal. "As doctors are also involved in the process, I do not think it unethical", Mahim said.

Staff of government hospitals also get commission for sending patients.

When asked, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Sanjib Tripathy at

Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital said steps have been taken to restrict brokers from entering the hospital.

Khagrachhari Civil Surgeon Dr. Abu Taher said there are only nine registered clinics out of 41 in the district.

He said a 5-member committee has been formed to probe the matter.

Rangamati Civil Surgeon Dr. Mohammad Abdullah said there are nine registered clinics out of 36 in the district. Some 10 clinics have applied for registration, he added.

He said joint forces earlier closed nine illegal clinics but all resumed operation.

Sources at Bandarban civil surgeon's office said only seven out of 28 clinics in the district have licences. Most of the licensed clinics and diagnostic centers are poorly equipped with manpower and instrument, the sources said.

Bandarban civil surgeon Dr. Sayed Abdus Salam was not available on telephone.

BURIMARI LAND PORT

Tk 17cr customs duty, VAT unrealised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Licences of 79 clearing and forwarding agents (C&F) out of 105 at Burimari land port has been 'suspended' for non-payment of customs duty.

Sources at the land port said a section of C&F agents after unloading imports from trucks send the merchandise to importer's destination without paying customs and VAT.

About Tk 18 in customs and VAT, accumulated over the years, is unrealised from the agents, the sources said.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) and customs authorities tried to realise the unpaid revenue but failed. After repeated efforts, only Tk 1.5 crore could be realised so far, they said.

Of the amount, about Tk 4 crore is due from three C&F firms.

Joint Commissioner of Rajshahi Customs, Excise and VAT Md Motiar Rahman in a fresh order on November 28 suspended licences of 17 C&F agents. Earlier, about a month back, licences of 62 agents were suspended.

Agents whose licences were cancelled on November 28 include the president of Burimari Land Port C&F Agents Association, its general secretary and some other influential persons.

The nearest Sonali Bank branch at Patgram upazila town, about 20 kilometres from Burimari. C&F Agents use this as a plea for deferred payments though, as per rule, tax should be paid before unloading goods, they said.

C&F agent Ershad Hossen Saju who, as per record owes Tk 1.95 crore unpaid taxes, told this correspondent that he paid most of the taxes but customs officials are yet to record those in registers.

He also claimed that all register books of 2006 of the land port are missing.

"Thirteen of the C&F agents filed cases with High Court against their suspension", Saju said.

Assistant commissioner of customs at Burimari land port Mahbubur Rahman, when contacted, admitted that about Tk 16 crore in taxes is unrealised from C&F agents and that licences of 79 of them were cancelled.

He said the situation has improved after proclamation of emergency and customs duty and VAT are collected now.



As mercury falls low-income people throng roadside shops and markets in urban rural areas. The photo was taken from Baro Bazaar Zame Mosque area in Sirajganj town yesterday.

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Red Crescent Concord Tower, 17, Mohakhali C/A, 6th Floor, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.

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Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (PGCB) entrusted with the responsibility of operation, maintenance and development of national power grid, invites applications for filling up some posts of Assistant Manager (Technical) in the scale of Tk. 16,000/- plus other allowances admissible as per rules from Graduate Engineer from recognized university in Electrical and Electronics/ Computer/ Mechanical/ Civil having at least Two First Divisions having knowledge in Microsoft word, Excel. The candidates appeared in the final examination in engineering from any recognized university may also apply for the post. He must submit a certificate from competent authority about his appearance in final examination. Selected candidates will remain on probation for one year. After satisfactory completion of probation period they will be confirmed in regular service on contract basis, initially for a period of 5(five) years (including probation period) but renewable subject to satisfactory performance.

Applications accompanying Bio-Data, two passport size photographs, attested copy of all educational certificates should reach the General Manager (P & A) at the above address on or before 13/01/2008. Age maximum 30 years on 13/01/2008 but relaxable in case of departmental candidates. Canvassing in any way shall disqualify the candidate.

General Manager (P & A)
PGCB

Asma was killed for dowry

Autopsy report says 8 months after incident

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Benapole port police yesterday turned the Asma suicide case into a murder case as the autopsy report said she was strangled.

The report was available eight months after the incident, police said.

Housewife Asma died from severe beating by her in-laws on the night of April 15 as she failed to bring dowry money demanded by them.

After the murder, the body was hung and rumors were spread that she committed suicide by hanging herself.

Later, a case was filed against Asma's mother-in-law Shakuron Nesa and brother-in-law Idris Ali with the same police station.

Both the accused surrendered before a court after the case was filed. The court granted them bail.

After the autopsy report was available, police prayed before court for arrest and remand of Shakuron Nesa and Idris Ali. The court cancelled the bail and issued arrest warrant against them.

Asma was married to Shaokat Ali, son of Hossain Ali of Kagaipur in Benapole, 10 years ago. It was alleged that Asma's in-law's used to beat her for dowry.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Over 100 families were displaced in Kanaighat in three days due to massive erosion by Surma river.

The river devoured their homesteads and croplands in Lakshmipur and Gouripur villages.

The severe erosion started all of a sudden at night on the Eid day. UNO Tofayel Islam visited the affected areas and informed Water Development Board officials.

Nasirul Haque of Gouripur village said, after midnight, the

erosion started with a big bang as an enormous chunk of landmass collapsed into the river.

"I had no option but to leave my paternal house as the landslide coupled with erosion took away four structures into the river in about an hour", he said.


Abdul Malik of the same village said, "Erosion first devoured my vegetable field and cow shed. Seeing cracks in the floor of my house, we just burst out with whatever we could take along".

Same was the story of Nazim

Uddin, Fakir Miah and Siddique Miah of Lakshmipur village. The river also devoured eight dwelling houses in nearby Rajpur-Chaltabari area in the same upazila.

In bordering Zakiganj, villagers were bewildered as several hundred dwelling houses were devoured by the Surma in last four days, locals there said.

Villagers there are passing days amid apprehension of further erosion as the authorities are yet to take any step to stop the sudden erosion.



বাংলাদেশ নৌ বাহিনীর সরাসরি কমিশন্ড অফিসার প্রার্থীদের
আইএসএসবি পরীক্ষা

বাংলাদেশ নৌ বাহিনীর নিম্নবর্ণিত রোল নম্বরধারী ২০০৮-এ ব্যাচের সরাসরি কমিশন্ড অফিসার প্রার্থীগণের আইএসএসবি পরীক্ষা ও সাক্ষাৎকার আগামী ০১ জানুয়ারী ২০০৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে :

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