

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

## Mason killed in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A young mason was killed as a wall collapsed at Arambagh Notunpara of the town yesterday. The victim, Mainul Islam, 25, was son of Shukuruddin of Baligram. Witnesses and police said, Mainul and others were working in an under-construction building. All of a sudden a wall of the building collapsed at 10:30 am killing Mainul on the spot. Three other construction workers were injured in the incident.

## Statue recovered in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel on Sunday night recovered a precious Vishnu statue from a secluded place in Adamdighi upazila. The ornamented statue was recovered by Rab-12 from the railway colony area. Weighing around 16.50 kilogram, the abandoned statue is 60 centimetre (cm) long and 27 cm in width. It is apprehended that the statue was collected for smuggling abroad. Earlier, Rab-12 recovered several statues, terracotta and other archaeologically valuable objects from various places in the district.

## Founding anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The 10th founding anniversary of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) in Tangail was celebrated yesterday. The university authorities organised various programmes on the campus in Santosh to mark the occasion. Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Dr M Nurul Islam inaugurated the programmes at 1:00pm by releasing balloons and pigeons. Earlier, the VC along with other teachers and students as well as officials and employees of the university placed wreath at the grave of Maolana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani on the campus and offered prayers there. The students and teachers later brought out a colourful procession which paraded the campus streets. A tree plantation programme was also held.



PHOTO: STAR

Martyrs' memorial at Shahid Nagar (previous name Baroitola) mass grave in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila reminds people of the harrowing tale of October 13 massacre by the Pakistan army. On this day in 1971, the occupation forces aided by their local collaborators shot dead over 350 people in the village.

## Youth commits suicide

UNB, Sylhet

A youth allegedly committed suicide on Sunday by taking poison at Sunampur village in South Surma upazila. Police said, Sumon Ahmed, 26, was son of Akmal Hossain, vice-chairman of the upazila. He took poison at his room at about 11am. Hearing his groaning in chest pain, family members rushed to his room and took him to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital where he died at about 1:00pm. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately. Kotwali police filed a general diary (GD) in this connection.

## Two houses gutted

UNB, Sylhet

Two houses were gutted in a fire at Sakitpur village in Dirai upazila of Sunamganj district on Saturday. Locals said the fire originated from an IPS explosion at the house of one Nazrul Mia at about 2:00pm and soon spread to the adjacent house of Murad Mia. None was injured in the incident as the inmates were out of their houses. Neighbours after three hours of frantic efforts extinguished the blaze. The house owners claimed they lost cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth over Tk 15 lakh.

## Spurious fertiliser seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 125 sacks of spurious fertiliser were seized in two separate raids here on Sunday in Birampur upazila. However, no one was arrested in this connection. BDR sources at Phulbari 40 Battalion said, a BDR team acting on a tip-off raided Bihari Colony at night and recovered at least 70 sacks of fertiliser. In another raid conducted at Birampur rail crossing, they recovered 55 sacks more of spurious fertiliser.

## Schoolboy kills himself

UNB, Sherpur

A schoolboy allegedly committed suicide at Dauakura border village in Nalitabari upazila on Sunday. Farhad, 13, a class VI student of Palashikura Janata High School was the son of Abdus Shahid. Locals said, Farhad killed himself by hanging from a tree near the pond of his house at about 7:30am as his mother scolded him for not going to school. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed in this connection.

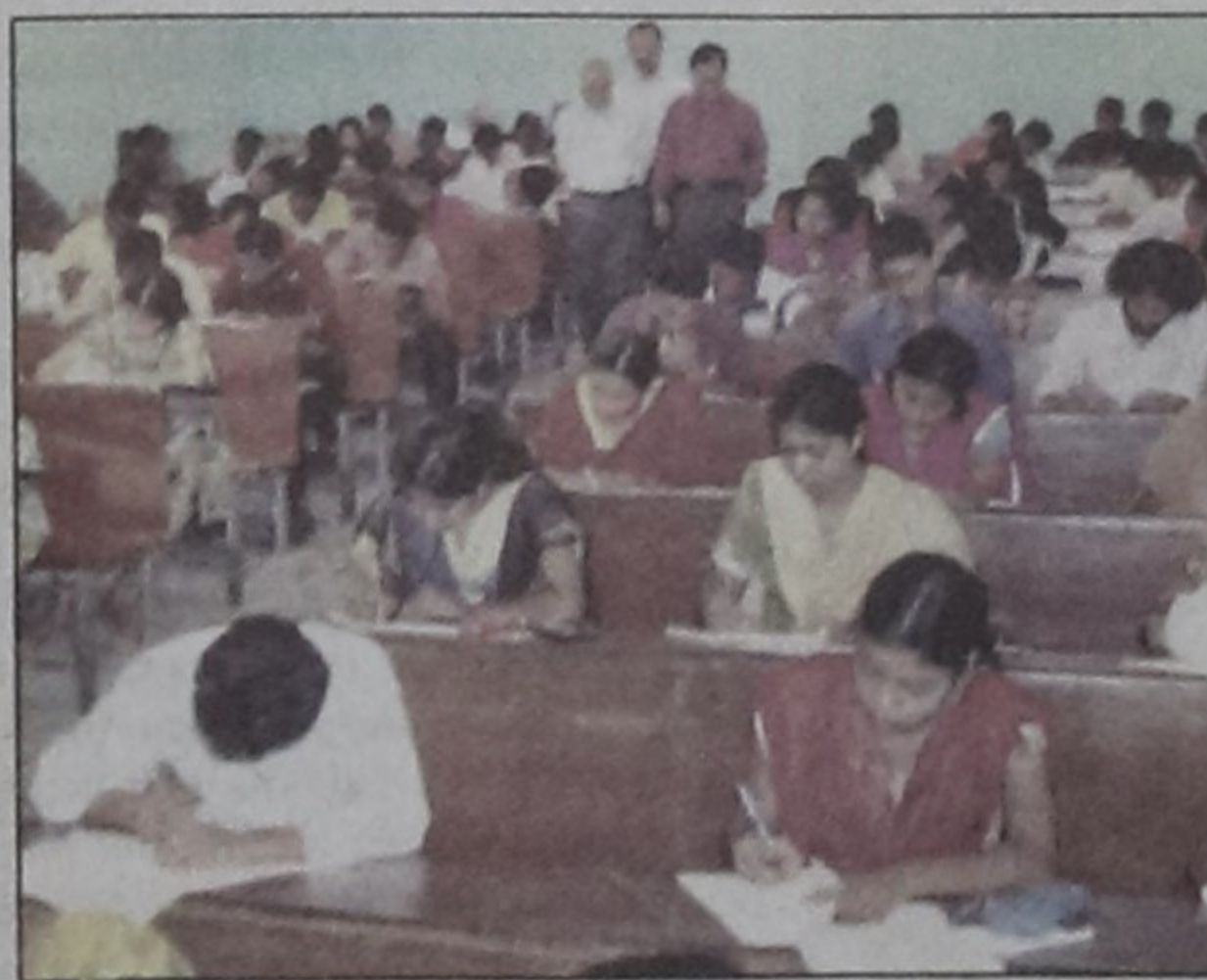


PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Admission seekers sit for a written test at Rajshahi University while Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan inspects the examination hall on the first day of examinations yesterday.

## SERIAL BLASTS IN 2005

## 3 JMB men get 39yrs in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A court here yesterday sentenced three members of militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 39 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) each for bombing in the town on August 17, 2005.

The convicts are Kawser Ahmed alias Yunus, Kawser Alam Sumon and Amanullah.

Netrakona Additional District and Sessions Judge Ekramul Haque Chowdhury also fined them Tk 20,000

each, in default, to suffer one year RI more.

The name of JMB chief Shaekh Abdur Rahman was dropped from the charge sheet as he along with five other JMB kingpins were hanged for killing two Jhalakati judges.

According to the case history, the convicts exploded bombs at different places in Netrakona town including Judge Court building and DC (deputy commissioner) office premises during the countrywide serial blasts on August 17, 2005.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Fishermen taking hilsa to wholesalers from Harina Ferryghat in Chandpur Sadar upazila on Sunday as large catches are being netted in Meghna River. Meanwhile, the authorities have banned hilsa catching during the peak breeding period from October 15 to 24.

## SITUATION WORSENS FURTHER IN PABNA

## Diarrhoea claims 6 in a week, 111 more hospitalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two diarrhoea patients died on Sunday night, raising the number of diarrhoeal deaths to six in a week, while 111 more people were admitted to Pabna General Hospital and Pabna Sadar Upazila Health Complex in 24 hours till yesterday afternoon.

A specialised team will start work in Pabna from today to find out the nature and cause of the disease, district health officials said.

Sixty-five new patients were admitted to the Diarrhoea Ward of Pabna General Hospital and 46 other diarrhoea patients took treatment from Pabna Sadar Upazila Health Complex in last 24 hours, hospital sources said.

Shafiuddin, 35, of village Mahamudpur, died in Pabna General Hospital and Dipjal, 8, son of a sweeper, died on the way to hospital on Sunday night.

The atmosphere at Pabna General

Hospital sees deterioration as the number of diarrhoea patients is increasing every day.

Many treatment seekers have to stay on the hospital floor.

Some of the diarrhoea patients who were earlier released after treatment, returned to the hospital as they contacted the disease again, hospital sources said.

"We are trying to keep the Diarrhoea Ward clean. But we are facing serious trouble as the number of patients is on the rise," said a staff nurse working at the Diarrhoea Ward of Pabna General Hospital.

"Following our request to the Director General's office, a specialised team comprising an assistant director of health department and a diarrhoea specialist will start working from tomorrow [Tuesday] to identify the nature and causes of the disease in Pabna. Steps will be taken according to findings," Dr Dipak Kumar, deputy civil surgeon of

Pabna, said yesterday.

"We have also requested the municipality authorities to conduct laboratory test of the water supplied by them. We think water contamination might be the cause of the sudden spread of diarrhoea," he said.

The district health department has cancelled all kinds of leave for its staff including doctors and health assistants while several teams have started door-to-door visit to monitor the situation, health officials said, adding that they are also conducting awareness campaign to prevent the disease.

Hospital authorities are struggling hard to cope with the situation as treatment is hampered due to accommodation problem and shortage of intravenous (IV) saline and other medicines.

The upazila administration has started drives by a special mobile court to destroy spurious food items from Pabna markets, said Pabna Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Debashish Nag.

## Jubo League men sued for extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Ten activists of Jubo League Kalmakanda upazila unit have been sued for extortion.

Milon Talukder, son of local trader Abdul Berek Talukder of village Konapara under Netrakona Sadar upazila, filed the case with Kalmakanda Police Station yesterday.

The accused are Saidur Rahaman Tuta, Nazrul Islam, Kamal, Rubel, Mizanur Rahaman, Haider Ali, Alkas Mia, Jahiruddin, Isob Ali and Harun of Sidli Bazar under the upazila.

Police said the accused on August 5 this year demanded Tk 1 lakh from Abdul Berek. As Berek refused to oblige, the Jubo League men called him out of his house and beat him up, they added.

Contacted, OC of Kalmakanda Police Station said they have recorded the case and are trying to arrest the accused.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Left without proper maintenance and repair, the ramshackle road from Hatgopalpur Bazar to Sreerampur in Jhenidah Sadar upazila causes immense sufferings to commuters.

## SIRAJGANJ BSCIC ESTATE

## Gas theft on rise for lack of monitoring, action

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, Sirajganj

Gas theft through illegal connections is rising in Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) estate of Sirajganj due to lack of proper monitoring by the authorities concerned.

Sources claimed that a section of businessmen of BSCIC estate, in connivance with some unscrupulous officials of Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL), are involved in the incidents of pilfers.

They said huge amount of gas under the management of PGCL has been stolen by different industries by establishing illegal links with the main line.

According to the sources, PGCL, a company of Petrobangla, was set up at Nalka in Sirajganj with a bright prospects for entrepreneurs of the northern region including Sirajganj to install small and cottage industries.

The PGCL then started giving gas connections to different industries in

the area. In absence of proper monitoring by the authorities concerned, a section of dishonest businessmen with the connivance of some PGCL staff managed illegal gas connections depriving the company of a large amount of revenue.

On information, a team of PGCL officials led by Deputy General Manager Anisul Haque launched a drive in the BSCIC estate on October 2 and unearthed an illegal gas connection taken by A Salam Chemical Industry.

The team disconnected the gas link and stopped gas supply to the industry owned by Abdus Salam alias Janbox. But they have not yet taken any legal steps against the people responsible for such gas theft.

They suspect that the industry pilfered a huge quantity of gas through the illegal connection since its installation in 2004 depriving the PGCL of huge amount of revenue.

The PGCL authorities also found

such illegal links at Bushra Enterprise and Northern Enterprise of the BSCIC estate about five months ago and disconnected gas link from the two industries.

Asked about taking punitive measures against the industries, PGCL Managing Director Mohammad Ali Hossain said he has informed Petrobangla about the incidents of gas pilferage and process is on to take action against the culprits as per the company's law.

Sources however said lingering process of taking punitive actions against the industries at fault would only encourage others to follow the suit and pilfer gas through illegal connections.

About the involvement of PGCL staff in gas pilferage incidents, MD of PGCL said he didn't receive any complaint against any staff.

He said official action would be taken against the culprits and monitoring system would be beefed up to avert such incidents in future.

## BALLOT SNATCHING CASE

## Charge framing against Ilyas, 47 others Dec 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Senior Judicial Magistrate-1, Sylhet, yesterday fixed December 10 for framing charges against Sylhet BNP convener and former law-maker M Ilyas Ali and 47 others in ballot paper snatching case.

On June 22, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sylhet, granted ad interim bail to the accused. He referred the case to the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate-1 on September 14 issued arrest warrants against two absconding accused in the case the same day.

Two ballot papers sealed with sheaf of paddy were recovered from a paddy field behind Ashuganj Government Primary School in Biswanath upazila a day after the December 29 parlia-

mentary elections.

Police filed a case against 50 BNP men, including Ilyas Ali and some UP chairmen, on charge of showing the ballot papers in public illegally. Police also alleged that Ilyas and his men had snatched those from government officials.

As police pressed charges against 48 of the 50 BNP men, they appeared before the High Court and got interim bail. The bench comprising Justice Md Abdul Wahab Miah and Justice Mariul Haque on April 28 ordered the accused to appear before the court concerned in eight weeks as they prayed for extension of bail.

Accordingly, Ilyas and 45 others appeared before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Sylhet, on 22 June and got ad interim bail.

## Showcause on BCL leader for holding rally on RU campus

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities yesterday issued showcause notice on a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader as he led a rally on the campus on Sunday defying ban on rallies and processions.

The notice stated that a large number of outsiders led by BCL leader Aminur Rahman Mithu, Masters student of Geology and Mining department, staged showdown on the campus creating panic among the general students and admission seekers.

The notice signed by proctor Prof Chowdhury Zakaria asked the BCL leader to explain the matter within seven days.

Contacted, Aminur Rahman admitted receiving the showcause notice.

Earlier on October 7, RU authorities issued a similar showcause notice also on the university's Bangabandhu Hall Shibir president, Shah Newaz Sachcho. The Shibir leader led a rally and besieged the proctor for an hour and threatened to paralyse the campus as the proctor tried to prevent them from holding the rally on the campus.

Administration sources said Shibir leader Shah Newaz Sachcho is yet to reply to the authorities notice.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi University (RU) authorities yesterday caught a fake examinee during the admission test of Philosophy department.

## EXTORTION CHARGE

## UZ chairman, 4 others sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An extortion case was filed on Sunday against five people, including Awami League leader and Swarupkathi (Nesarabad) upazila chairman Muhidul Islam Muhid.

Four other accused are Touhidul Islam, brother of the chairman, Sohel, Ripon and Belal.

Sushen Ranjan Baral of Jalabari of Nesarabad upazila filed the case with the judicial magistrate's court.

The court directed the officer in-charge (OC) of Nesarabad police station to take appropriate steps after investigation.

According to the case statement, cadres of the upazila chairman intercepted

Ashish Kumar Baral, son of plaintiff, in front of public health department on his way to land registry office on September 14.

Touhid and others demanded Tk 5 lakh as toll from him.

As Ashish refused to pay the toll, the cadres over cell phone informed the matter to the upazila chairman, also joint general secretary of upazila AL. As per his directive, the attackers beat up Ashish and broke his finger by hitting with brick, the complainant said.

The injured was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital as the attackers allegedly prevented him from taking treatment at Swarupkathi health complex, the case statement said.