

'Set free my grandson'

Grandmother of abducted class nine student Faisal Uddin Javed, 16, joins the human chain yesterday by his fellows on the premises of Chittagong Press Club organised demanding his rescue. A student of Hamjarbagh High School in Panchlaih under the port city, Javed was kidnapped while returning from school on October 16. The abductors demanded Tk 40 lakh from his father Qatar expatriate Md Shahjahan of Fatikchhari in Chittagong.

PM urged to okay gas supply project for SW region

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee has demanded direct intervention of the prime minister for approval of the Tk 644 crore project for gas supply through pipeline in the next meeting of ECNEC. At a press conference at the committee office in the city on Monday, Haider Gazi Salahuddin Runu, secretary general of the body, read out a written statement appealing to the prime minister to fulfil her election commitment to implement the gas supply project in the south-western region for greater economic interest of the country. "We will submit a memorandum to the prime minister through the deputy commissioner of Khulna on November 2 to draw her kind attention to this very important issue," he said. "A new tough movement programme would be launched as part of our firm stand against further conspiracy to shelve implementation of the project on any lame excuse," he added. He strongly criticised the planning ministry for sending file back to the Ministry of Energy instead of placing it before the last meeting of ECNEC for approval of the project. "Such a move would foil the

government's initiative to implement various development projects including reopening of closed jute mills, Khulna Newsprint Mill, Khulna Textile Mill and activating all sick industries, modernisation of Mongla Port and Export Processing Zone," Haider said. "File for the project was not placed before last meeting of ECNEC for approval merely on ground of shortage of the Internal Rate of Return (IRR). Requirement of IRR for the project is 15 percent. This requirement could not be fulfilled as 11.13 percent IRR has been quoted in project. This cannot be the reason to shelve the file in the energy ministry, hampering greater economic interest of the people of south-western region. "We hope that the government will approve the project also to inspire entrepreneurs of both home and abroad to invest in this part of the country where 65 out of 112 industries were shut down in last six years for seven reasons," he said. The seven reasons are absence of gas supply through pipeline, severe power outage, sickness of Mongla Seaport, absence of an airport, high interest of bank loan, inadequate supply of furnace oil and lack of good communication system.

Over half of judge posts in Tangail vacant for long

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Trial of cases is being greatly hampered in Tangail as over half of the posts of judges including that of district and sessions judge has remained vacant for long, causing sufferings to the litigants. Court sources said, only seven judges are performing the job although there are 20 posts of judges in the district. The post of district and sessions judge fell vacant on June 28 this year after Judge Soumendra Sarkar left Tangail to join Supreme Court as a judge of the High Court Division. "Although several applications have been sent to the law ministry in this regard, no reply has been received yet," said Tangail Bar Association President Advocate Golam Mostofa Miah. Bar association and court sources said no judge has been appointed for one of

the two additional district and sessions judge's courts in the district for the last two months. First Additional District and Sessions Judge AKM Zahurul Alam and Sessions Judge AKM Jahidul Hossain are acting district and sessions judge, as well as second additional district and sessions judge besides his own duty. As a result, judicial and administrative activities of the district courts are being hampered seriously, increasing the number of pending cases. A difficult situation now prevails in carrying out hearings of the civil and criminal revision and appeal cases in the district and sessions judge's court, said government lawyer Muhammad Abdur Rashid, also the general secretary of District Bar Association. Court sources said two judge's posts at the four joint district judge's courts in the

district have been lying vacant for over a month. In Tangail district, there are 11 assistant judge's courts to handle judicial activities at the upazila level but the judicial posts in seven of them are now vacant. The judges of assistant judge's courts for Nagarpur, Kalihati, Madhupur and Ghatail upazilas are dealing with cases in other courts as additional duty. There is also shortage of judicial magistrates and additional chief judicial magistrates in the district for the last four months. Several litigants said delay in case disposal adds to their cost. The government should appoint judges against the vacant posts to ease judicial process, said several justice seekers and lawyers.

2 top outlaws arrested in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishitia

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Monday night arrested two top cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) at Khadimpur in Sadar upazila in Chuadanga district. According to Rab-6, a team led by Captain Raseduzzaman Rajib raided the house of Ikramul Haq at Khadimpur village at about 40:30 pm and arrested him. On his confessional statement, Rab raided another house of the same village and arrested Laltu who was also a top cadre of the same outfit. Both confessed to police that they have firearms hidden at Khadimpur graveyard. Rab went to the spot and recovered a pistol and two bullets. Iqramul, son of Lal Mia and Laltu, son of Akkas Ali of the village are accomplices of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) regional leader Arif Ahmed.

Rab handed over the two outlaws to police on Tuesday morning. Police later produced them before a Chuadanga court and the court sent them to jail.

2 get life for murdering baby girl

UNB, Madaripur

A court here on Monday sentenced two people to life term imprisonment for killing a baby girl in 2005. The lifers are Swapan Hawlader, 38, and Abul Kalam Sardar, 40, of Madbarechar Kharakandi village in Shibchar upazila. The court also fined Abul Kalam Tk 30,000, in default, to suffer three years more in jail. Swapan was fined Tk 5,000, and to serve one year more imprisonment in case of his failure in depositing the money. According to the prosecution, Swapan and Kalam tactfully took Rina, 3, daughter of Sultan Hawlader, out of their house and killed her on December 29, 2005 due to enmity with the baby's father. After the killing, a case was filed with local police station.



A grabber has erected fence to demarcate the occupied portion of the playground of Joynal Abedin Laboratory High School at Uttar Joynagar under Doulotkhan upazila of Bhola district.

Grabber eyes land of a school in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Teachers and students of Joynal Abedin Laboratory High School at Uttar Joynagar under Doulotkhan upazila of Bhola district yesterday submitted memorandum to Doulotkhan Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to protect their school from 'land grabber'. In the memorandum, the teachers and students alleged that hired goons of a man backed by the ruling Awami League on October 20 damaged a wall of a toilet of the school and took away a few tables and benches. He also grabbed a piece of land of the institution and built two structures there recently, much to the problem of the students, they said. One Md Muslim is residing on the school ground illegally, said Abdulla Al Noman, headmaster of the school. About 500 students study in the school established on 75

decimal lands in 2001. Local people run the high school that is yet to be included in MPO. The teachers and students have demanded arrest and punishment of the land grabber who allegedly prepared forged documents in a bid to grab their school property. A member of the school managing committee filed a general diary after the October 20 attack and also on different occasions earlier but police did not take any action, they alleged. "After the attack incident, I went to the police station to seek legal action. But police did not record or investigate the matter," said school managing committee president Khaleida Khanam, who is also sister of former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim. Talking to this correspondent over cell phone yesterday, Md. Muslim claimed that he bought eight decimal lands in front of the school from one Abdul Latif in 1985 after find-

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

8 sued on murder charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Brother of JMB victim Abu Taleb yesterday lodged a case with a Rajshahi court. Taleb's brother Mojibor Rahman accused eight people and alleged that the previous case filed by his uncle Amjad Hossain is false and motivated. The senior judicial magistrate's court sent the case to Magmara police station and asked police to take legal and appropriate action. On Tuesday last, Amjad Hossain filed a case with the same court accusing 56 of killing Abu Taleb. The eight accused in the Mojibor's case are Abed Ali and Zabeed Ali of Mirzapur, Altaf Hossain, Aminul Islam, Ismail Hossain of Konapara, Afzal Hossain, Abdur Rashid of Sajuria village and Dulu Khan of Goalkandi village. According to the case, the accused are members of JMB and they kidnapped and murdered Abu Taleb on April 14 in 2004 for his refusal to pay toll.

Top Khulna criminal killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A listed criminal was stabbed to death allegedly by his opponents on Monday night at Moulavipara in Khulna. Police said Nahid, 28, alias 'Bomaru' Nahid was son of Abdul Khaleque of Nirala residential area. They said, the murder was a sequel to previous enmity with opponents over drug trade. Nahid was also wanted in several criminal cases including murder. Witnesses said, Nahid was attacked and murdered soon after he came out of his rented house at Moulavipara. He, earlier, survived an attempt on his life by the same group of killers in last May, police said.

4 get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Four people were sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment yesterday on charge of killing a farmer. They were also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer three months more in jail. The convicts are Entaz Ali Baddi and Kashem Ali Baddi, sons of Janab Ali of village Barokhamar, Ali Hossain, son of Abul Kashem of village Kukhrali and Anshad Ali, son of Kawsar Ali of village Gobindpur in Sadar upazila. According to the prosecution story, Entaz had a long-standing dispute with victim Niamuddin of village Barokhamar over a piece of land. The convicts called Niamuddin out of his house and strangled him on May 14, 2002. Victim's wife Amela Khatun later filed a murder case with Sadar police station.

Youth crushed under train

UNB, Jhenidah

A young man was crushed under the wheels of a Goalanda-bound train at Mobarakanj station in Kaliganj upazila on Tuesday morning. The deceased was identified as Debabrato Sarker, 30, of Beparipara in the district town. Family sources said, Debu went out of house on Monday and did not return at night. Later, he was found crushed under the wheels of 'Nakshikantha' yesterday morning.

Prisoner dies in jail

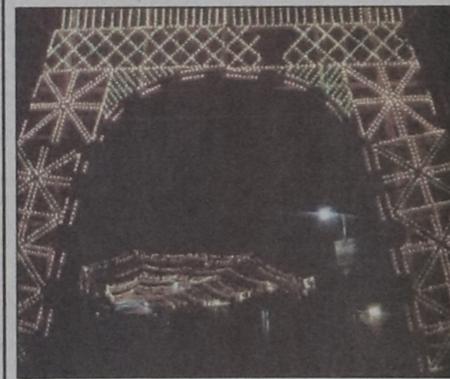
UNB, Narayanganj

An under-trial prisoner died at the general hospital here on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Ali Hossain, 27, son of Chan Mia of Kashimpur Bazar in Fatulla. Jail sources said, Ali started vomiting and fell sick on Sunday night. He was taken to the hospital where he died later on. Jailer Mahbulul Islam said, Ali Hossain accused of killing wife, was sent to jail after he surrendered on August 1 this year.

'Red alert' in Khulna jail

UNB, Khulna

Khulna district jail has been put under 'red alert' fearing possible destructive activities and attack by the militants following ban on Islamist outfit Hizb-ut-Tahrir. Khulna jail superintendent M Shah Alam said the red alert was declared on Monday afternoon. He said there are some 1,900 prisoners in the district jail. Of them, five are members of Hizb-ut-Tahrir and six JMB activists. On Tuesday, security was beefed up in and around the prison. The law enforcers were seen searching the vehicles and pedestrians passing through the jail in the morning.



An illuminated archway adorns Jamrultala puja mandap as Magura town wears a festive look on the occasion of five-day-long traditional Katayani Puja ending today. The joyful event, celebrated in Magura for the last 59 years, attracts people irrespective of religion and nationality.



People have to take the risky walk on the bamboo bridge to cross Chhatnai River on Shaldanga-Debiduba road in Debiganj upazila of Panchagarh district as promise for a permanent bridge has eluded the locals for over three decades.

Pre-poll pledges to build the bridge never came true

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Candidates of different political parties during parliamentary elections assured local people of constructing a bridge across the Chhatnai River in Debiganj upazila of Panchagarh but the assurance has never come true during the last 38 years. "There was a wooden bridge across the river but it was damaged during the Liberation War. Unfortunately, no concrete bridge has been built there after the independence," septuagenarian Hossain Ali of Begidanga village told this correspondent during a visit to Debiganj last week.

Local people said the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has already constructed roads on both sides of the river but it is of little use for them without a bridge. People of 30 villages on both sides of the river are facing difficulties, as they have to cross the river by using a bamboo-made bridge constructed by Shaldanga union parishad (UP) to go to Panchagarh town and Debiganj upazila headquarters. The inhabitants of Shaldanga and Marea unions under Debiganj upazila to the north of Chhatnai River face great difficulty during the rainy season, as they have to use alternative routes and

travel additional 6/7 kilometres to go to the upazila headquarters to sell their agricultural products and other goods, locals said. Besides, people of Debiduba union living near the river on its southern bank also suffer the same problem when they visit Panchagarh town on the opposite side of the river. People of the area have demanded construction of a concrete bridge for long but no step has been taken in this regard, said Hasnat Zaman Chowdhury, chairman of Shaldanga UP. "We submitted applications to the authorities concerned, ministers and parliament members several times for constructing a bridge

there but to no effect," he said. Demanding immediate construction of the bridge, Debiduba UP Chairman Abdur Razzak told this correspondent that thousands of people including students of his union are facing problems in absence of a permanent bridge. Upazila LGED engineer Robul Islam said they have sent a proposal to chief engineer's office with the recommendation of local lawmaker for constructing a bridge. When contacted, local lawmaker expressed Nurul Islam Shujan expressed hope that a bridge will be built across the Chhatnai River during the term of the present government.