

Madaripur college closed as rival BCL men clash

Principal's room vandalised

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Madaripur Government Nazimuddin University College was yesterday declared closed for three days following a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League. The activists of the both factions also damaged principal's room, accounts sections and flower garden.

Immediately after the incident, the college authorities announced the institution closed for three days and asked the students to leave the campus. However, examinations and admission process will continue as usual, college authorities said.

Campus sources said the trouble began following an altercation between the two rival groups at a meeting of

the college students union in the principal's room at noon.

They chased each other and also damaged doors and windows of some classrooms. On information, police rushed to the spot, dispersed the BCL men and brought the situation under control.

Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert any further untoward incident.



A canal, to be fed by the reservoir of Buri Teesta Irrigation Project in Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari district, remains without water as the sluice gate of the reservoir has been shut to make the water body ready for fish cultivation.



PHOTO: STAR

Tourists to get added pleasure as sea cruise starts at Cox's Bazar

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Luxury ship Keari Cruise and Dine started its maiden trip yesterday, offering tourists in Cox's Bazar a unique opportunity for enjoying the picturesque natural beauty of the Bay of Bengal and the beach.

Lawmaker from Cox's Bazar-3 (Sadar-Ramu) constituency, Lutfor Rahman inaugurated the trip at the BIWTA jetty at Nuniachhara on the estuary of Bakkhali River in the town at 10:00am.

During its daily trip from the jetty, the

ship will cross through Moheshkhali and Sonadia channels and sail up to Inani beach in Ukha upazia. The 35-kilometre trip will take one and a half hours. In another 90 minutes, it will return to Bakkhali River, touching Himchhari, Baro Chhara and Kotaloli.

The ship with a 150-seat conference room and arrangement for 310 passengers' travelling will take three two-way trips (morning, noon, afternoon) daily from Bakkhali River to Inani beach and a night trip will be added later, said

Mohammad Mohsin, director of Keari Cruise and Dine.

A tourist will have to pay Tk 1200 to Tk 1800 for the three-hour trip, including high quality food, tea, coffee and snacks, said officials of Keari Tours and Services Ltd that has taken the initiative.

The initiative has offered tourists the rare opportunity to watch the coast with hills and streams, fishermen's catching and drying fish while travelling in the sea, said several tourists narrating experience of their first trip by the ship.



PHOTO: STAR

Keari Cruise and Dine sails through Moheshkhali channel with tourists from Cox's Bazar as the luxury ship started its maiden trip yesterday morning.

Vehicles in long queue at Paturia, Daulatdia ghats

Ferry shortage causes chaos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Traffic jam continued on both sides of Paturia-Daulatdia ferry route for the last few days due to shortage of ferries, causing a lot of sufferings to passengers.

Sources in the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) said around 600 vehicles including passenger buses and goods laden trucks remained stranded at Paturia and Daulatdia ghat yesterday.

Ashraf Ullah Khan, BIWTC manager (commerce), said there are 10 Ro-Ro and two K-

type ferries for the route while four or five of them always remain inoperative because of repair work.

Six Ro-Ro and two K-type ferries are now in operation on the route and at least four more ferries are needed to keep the ferry service normal, he added.

Three ferries--Bir Shrestha Jahangir, Khan Jahan Ali and Shah Ali--have been taken to Narayanganj dockyard a month ago while Shah Poran ferry has remained at Chittagong dockyard for about a year.

The condition of Shah Jalal ferry is also very bad and

it will also be sent to Narayanganj dockyard for repair work, sources said.

However, Bir Shrestha Jahangir ferry is expected to come to Paturia ghat from Narayanganj within a week, Ashraf added.

Abdus Sattar, marine officer of BIWTC, said ferries are running on the channel with high risk as propellers of the ferries touch shoals due to navigability problem.

At least 10-12 feet deep water level is required for normal ferry movement but the water level is now 7.5 to 8 feet at some points, he said.

Sundarbans Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sundarbans Day will be observed in several districts of the Southwestern region of the country today.

Sundarbans Academy has taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day at Khulna Press Club. The programmes include cultural function at 10:00am., documentary on Sundarbans at 11:00am. discussion meeting at 11:30 am and prize distribution at 1:15 pm.

Sundarbans Day was declared on February 14, 2001 at a national level meeting held in Khulna with former president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as the chief guest.

Aim and objective for holding this meeting were to create mass awareness on how to conserve biodiversity of the world's largest mangrove forest and increase revenue earnings by preserving and protecting its resources.

The 18-point Sundarbans declaration was unanimously accepted at a rally held at Shahid Hadis Park on February 16 same year urging the government to save it from being ruined. But none of the proposals could be implemented in the last nine years.

Reservoir of irrigation project being leased for fish cultivation

Move to hamper water supply to vast farmland in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is leasing out the vast water reservoir of the Buri Teesta Irrigation Project in Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari district for fish cultivation, much to the worry of thousands of farmers.

Thousands of farmers will be deprived of irrigation facilities due to the decision, local farmers said.

To lease the reservoir for fish farming, nine firms dropped tenders on January 11 and Tusco Resources Limited of Gazipur district became the highest bidder, said Nazir Ahmed, executive engineer of BWDB in Nilphamari.

Work order in favour of the lessee is under process and they will pay a total of Tk 2 crore 25 lakh in ten years, he said.

Initially the project was drawn for providing irrigation facilities on 29,000 acres of land in Dimla, Domar and Jaldhaka upazilas.

The chairman of the then East Pakistan WAPDA, GA Madani inaugurated the project at Kaliganj village of

Jaldhaka upazila in 1963.

It included a major barrage on the Buri Teesta River, a 36,696-foot-long main canal and four branch canals measuring a total of 1,83,600 feet length.

A vast water reservoir was also constructed on 1,270 acres of land. The construction work of all kinds of infrastructure was completed in 1983.

Till 1990, 18,000 acres of land were brought under irrigation from water of the reservoir, said BWDB sources and beneficiaries.

But in 1991, the BWDB declared that the project would not yield desired result due to 'faults' in planning of the project. Subsequently, the irrigation area was drastically cut down and it has come down to only 136 acres this year.

During a visit to the project on Friday, this correspondent found that the canals are almost dried up although sufficient water existed in the reservoir. Farmers under this project were seen irrigating boro fields in traditional ways.

Instead of making arrangements to make the project effective, the divisional office of BWDB in Nilphamari has pre-

pared to lease out the 1217-acre reservoir to Tusco Resources Limited for fish cultivation at a nominal cost, said several farmers.

Sources in BWDB in Nilphamari division referring to the BWDB decision said that the width of the main irrigational canal was abnormally large. There is also misplanning in making the reservoir as water of the reservoir does not flow towards the farmers lands; rather it comes to the reservoir from their lands.

"The reservoir should be excavated to make the irrigation project functioning. In the ongoing boro season this project would provide irrigation facilities to 136 acres of land," said Golam Sarwar, sub-divisional engineer of BWDB's Jaldhaka office.

It is not acceptable to use the water reservoir of the irrigation project for fish cultivation, said Golam Mostofa, president of Movement for Implementation of Buri Teesta Irrigation Project.

He demanded that BWDB authorities take immediate steps to remove all the obstacles to making the project effective for the greater interest of the farmers.

23 sued on charge of killing FF during Liberation War

UNB, Bagerhat

Twenty-three alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces have been sued on charge of killing a freedom fighter during Liberation War in Morelganj upazila of Bagerhat district.

Morelganj Police Station recorded the case on Friday night following a order of Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court, Bagerhat.

M Mujibar Rahman Khan, son of martyred freedom fighter Abdul Jabbar Khan of Teligati village, filed a petition case with the court recently. The court took the case into cognisance and asked Morelganj police to record it as a regular case.

Eighteen of the accused are Akram Khan, 55, Sultan Khan, 65, Shahid Khan, 60, Rashid Khan, 65, Kader Chowdhury,

75, Nura Shikder, 76, Rustam Sheikh, 60, Mobarak Khan, 75, Ashraf Khan, 70, Ukil Sheikh, 60, Akbar Khan, 65, Moksed Didar, 75, Afsar Didar, 70, Afsu Khan, 65, Bellal Didar, 68, Ensan Didar, 70, Delwar Sheikh, 60 and Rafiqul Islam Babul. Names of the remaining five could not be known.

In the case statement, Mujibar alleged that the accused picked up his father Jabbar from their house on December 3, 1971. Later, they shot him dead in front Teligati High School.

The collaborators also looted valuables worth Tk 2 lakh and set ablaze the house, the plaintiff said.

With this, some 36 cases have so far been filed against 475 alleged raskars in the district for killing, looting and arson during the Liberation War.

Left student bodies demand ban on Shibir politics

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Leaders and activists of left-leaning student organisations at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday demanded ban on Shibir politics at all educational institutions across the country.

They raised the demand at a rally on the campus marking the 15th death anniversary of Chhatra Moitree leader Debashis Bhattacharya Rupam who was killed by Islami Chhatra Shibir at RU on February 13, 1995, reports a RU correspondent.

Addressing the rally, leaders of the student bodies said Jamaat and Shibir cadres are trying to destabilise the country as the government is going to try the war criminals.

They urged the government and the university authorities to ban politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir to stop politics of killing.

They also criticised the role of the law enforcers and university authorities during

Tuesday's violence on the campus.

The student leaders also demanded exemplary punishment to the Shibir cadres who killed BCL activist Faruk Hossain at Shah Makhdum Hall.

In the early hours of Tuesday, they urged the countrymen to stay united against the anti-liberation forces.

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, JSD Chhatra League and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front attended the rally.

The student bodies later brought out a joint procession and paraded the campus.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reported that Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front yesterday took out separate processions in Moulvibazar town demanding ban on Shibir politics on the campuses.

SNIPPETS

Bomb attack on BNP man

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A BNP activist came under bomb attack at Navaron in Sharsha upazila yesterday morning. Witnesses said three criminals, who came in a motorbike, threw two bombs on Akbar Ali, 37, while he was working in front of his house in the morning. Critically injured Akbar was first admitted to Navaron Hospital. And then shifted to Jessore Sadar Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Free health camp

BSS, Gaibandha

A day-long health camp was held here yesterday under the auspices of Hamdard Laboratories Limited. Over 100 poor patients got treatment for free as part of Hamdard's corporate social responsibilities, officials said. Hakim Harun-or-Rashid gave prescriptions to the patients while Gaibandha branch manager of Hamdard Laboratories Omar Faruque distributed medicines to them, sources said. Similar camps were also held in different parts of the country.

Fire at fisheries office

UNB, Jhenidaha

Fire gutted valuables, including three computers, two photocopyers, and furniture at district fisheries office on Friday. Locals said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at 3:00pm and burnt down the valuables. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts.

Woman commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A woman killed herself by hanging in Majampur area of the town on Friday night. The dead was identified as Darjina Jaman, 27, mother of two children. According to family sources, Darjina's husband Faruq Hossain, a sub-assistant engineer Faridpur Palli Bidyut Samity, was killed by robbers in December 2008. After husband's death, Darjina returned to her parents' house at Majampur in Kushtia town and was staying there. A week ago, She left her parents house and started living at a rented house in Thanapara area in the town. Police said Darjina came to her parents' house Friday and hanged herself from the selling fan in a room at night.



PHOTO: STAR

Vehicles stand in a long queue to enter Paturia ferry terminal as shortage of ferryboats coupled with navigability problem in the ongoing dry season caused a long tailback there yesterday.

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