NATIONAL

Bail granted to Jamaat leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Khulna Mohammad Barekuzzaman yesterday granted bail to Dhaka city Ameer of Jamaat Rafigul Islam

Sixty-eight lawyers loyal to BNP and Jamaat were present when his bail petition was moved by advocate Abdul Malek after the accused surrendered to court at 11:30 am yesterday in connection with a defamation case.

Chowdhury Raihan Farid, a leader of Khulna Jubo League filed a petition case on March 25 this year under sections 295 A, 298 and 109 of BPC against central Ameer of Jamaat Matiur Rahman Nizami, Dhaka city Ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan and Delwar Hossain Saeedi.

The complainant stated in his petition case that the accused injured his religious sentiment by comparing Nizami with Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (peace be on him) at a meeting organised by Chhatra Shibir at Dhaka AL Falah Institute on March 17

The court after granting bail asked Rafiqul Islam Khan to appear in court on June 27 for hearing in connection with the petition case.

PSTU students skip exams for fear of BCL reprisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A large number of examinees did not go to examination halls at Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) yesterday allegedly as the expelled activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) threatened them with dire consequences.

Campus sources and students, on condition of anonymity, told this correspondent that local unit of BCL asked the students to keep away from exams and classes in a bid to put pressure on PSTU administration to withdraw the expulsion orders.

PSTU expelled 21 BCL boys on May 11 for different terms on charge of creating anarchy on campus in February this year.

Following the expulsion, the upazila unit BCL in Dumki, where the varsity is located, gave a 72-hour ultimatum to withdraw the order.

The PSTU authorities also imposed an indefinite ban on all kinds of rallies, processions and gatherings on the campus.

Only 27 students out of 165 supposed to sit for semester final examinations under different departments of agriculture faculty and disaster management department dents.

turned out for examinations yesterday.

Only a single class of sixth semester was held yesterday. No other classes took place for absence of students.

Contacted, PSTU vice chancellor Prof Syed Shakhawat Hussain said, "We requested all students to disregard the acts of the expelled students. We are determined to hold classes and examinations".

Nasir Saleh Chowdhury, deputy registrar of the PSTU said "I have issued an emergency notice on Tuesday on behalf of VC requesting the students to attend their classes and take part in their examinations. We also requested all to maintain peaceful atmosphere on the campus".

"We'll be forced to take action if anybody is found guilty."

Contacted, BCL president of Dumki unit Jasimuddin Badal denied threatening the students and said, "General students of the university are supporting the expelled students and that's why they're not taking part in exams."

Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert any unwanted inci-



Shyamnagar upazila administration has started re-excavation of this large pond in Sadar union to supply drinking water for about ten thousand people of the cyclone Aila-hit area in Satkhira district.

Health service in Dinajpur limps for doctor shortage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Medical service for 30 five lakh people in Dinajpur district is limping amid serious shortage of doctors.

The situation has turned all the more worse for patients in remote areas as a large number of doctors from upazila health complexes and Dinajpur Sadar Hospital have 'managed' deputation to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital (DJMCH), said sources at Dinajpur Civil Surgeon's office.

'Partially started' in early last month, DJMCH is providing only some limited service under a few departments.

Now there are 12 doctors against 42 posts at Dinajpur Sadar Hospital, three doctors in Chirirbandar upazila, two doctors in Biral upazila, while Ghoraghat health complex is running with only one doctor although the sanctioned posts of doctors in each upazila health complex of the district

running without the services of permanent female medical officers or gynaecologists.

Overburdened with work, the doctors cannot examine and treat patients properly while patients with serious problems are often referred to

DJMCH.

But many patients in remote areas, especially the poor ones, can hardly afford to go to the district town for treatment.

Admitting the prevailing situation, Dinajpur Civil Surgeon Dr Abdul Karim said, "The matter has been brought to the notice of the health ministry and the problem will All the upazila hospitals are be solved within a month."

In terms of infrastructure and manpower, not a single hospital in the rural area of the district fulfils the specified norms, said a doctor who has been deputed to DJMCH

Ghoraghat upazila Health 13 posts of medical officer.

Complex, which is running with only one doctor, has become only a first aid centre with no facilities and patients with serious ailments are referred to Dinajpur Medical College, about 120km away.

Accident victims, even if in serious conditions, are given only first aid in the hospital, said locals.

"In January, I took my oneyear-old son to the health complex for treatment but the baby died due to lack of proper treatment in absence of doctor," said Amir Hossain of village Shahebganj in the upazila.

Sources said that there are

A health complex in bad health

No doctor for 3 days

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Aditmari Upazila Health Complex has been running without doctors since May 17, leaving patients without medical care.

Eleven admitted patients at the 31-bed hospital and those coming to outpatient department are not getting treatment for lack of doctors.

Hospital sources said the post of resident medical officer (RMO) has been vacant for the last three months while the posts of two medicine specialists, a dental surgeon, five consultants and two medical assistants have been vacant for longer.

Of the two remaining physicians, Atiar Rahman was stand released on May 16 and medical officer Hasanul Adam was transferred to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital the following day, said the sources. Since

then, the hospital has been running without doctors.

Sanjida Begum, 40, wife of Muslim Uddin of Vadai village under Aditmari upazila was admitted to the hospital with stomach pain on May 15.

"On the first day, I was under treatment of a doctor. But no doctor came to attend the patients in the last two days," she said.

Abdur Rahim, 45, of Char Gobordhan came to the hospital's outpatient section with a high fever, but he had to go back as no doctor was present.

Karim Uddin, 40, Salam Miah, 55, Khodeza Bewa, 50, and some other patients, who came to the hospital to get treatment from outpatient section on Wednesday, faced the same situation.

Contacted, Civil Surgeon (CS) Dr MA Sobhan said two doctors will join the hospital on Thursday (today) and the rest of the posts will be filled up gradually.

courtroom. Smuggled formalin seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

3 get life for murder

UNB, Jessore

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members yesterday seized 233 bottles of smuggled Indian formalin from Halidagachhi in Charghat upazila and arrested one Wasim Hossain of Jaygirpara in this connection. Rab sources said Wasim brought formalin bottles from India for selling those among the mango traders. Wasim confessed to Rab that the formalin is also used on fishes and vegetables like brinjal.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

A court here on Tuesday sentenced a woman and two others

to life term imprisonment for killing her husband in 2006.

The convicts are Halima Begum and Arman Ali of Buikura

village in Abhoynagar upazila and Abdul Hanif of Sankarpasa

village of the same upazila. The court also fined them Tk

10,000 each, in default, to suffer two years more rigorous

imprisonment (RI). According to the prosecution, Halima

with the help of two other convicts killed her husband Ansar

Ali following a family feud on June 15, 2006. Later, Ansar's

brother Baker Ali filed a murder case with the police. After

examining the records and witnesses, District and Sessions

Judge Shamsul Alam handed down the verdict in the crowded



Around 400 patients have got back their eyesight as National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Nalta Hospital and Community Health Foundation jointly arranged cataract operation free of cost at Outreach Mobile Eye Camps in Kaliganj, Shyamnagar and Tala upazilas of Satkhira district during May 13-15.

Defamation: AL MP sues AL leader OUR CORRESPONDENT, Uddin, 80, Reaz Uddin

Mymensingh,

Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Mymensingh-6 (Phulbaira constituency) advocate Muslem Uddin filed defamation and damage suits against Jalal Uddin, a freedom fighter and labour secretary of Phulbaria upazila AL unit, with two separate courts here yesterday.

Earlier on April 6, Jalal Uddin filed a case with Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court against Muslem Uddin and 13 others for their alleged involvement in war crimes in 1971. The other accused were

Fayzal Bari, 61, Abdus Samad Master alias Tikka Khan, 75, Abdul Jabber, 60, Abdul Mondol, 80, Mofiz

Fakir, 72, Abdul Jabber, 68, Mukshed Ali, 70, Amjad Ali Haji, 75, Ebadullah, 70, Mukshed Ali, 80, Wahed Ali Munshi, 80 and Sohrab Ali, 78.

Accepting the case, the court ordered the officer-incharge (OC) of Phulbaria Police Station to investigate the allegations against the accused, including the AL lawmaker, and submit its report.

After investigation, OC Kazi Saidur Rahman submitted the final report to the court on May 9. In the report, he said police found no involvement of advocate Muslem Uddin and 13 others in war crimes.

Muslem Uddin filed the defamation suit with Cognisance Court No-2 and a Tk 50 crore damage suit with Joint District Judge's Court No-2.

Activities at Tamabil resume

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Import of coal, stone and other items through Tamabil land port in Sylhet resumed yesterday afternoon after remaining suspended for two days. About 50 loaded trucks reached Tamabil border yesterday afternoon, sources said. The border trade came to a halt due to the unrest in the Indian state of Meghalaya. The trouble erupted after clashes between Nepalese and Khasia people there four days ago, border sources informed. Bangladesh customs authorities had to suspend activities at Tamabil port until further notice after the Indian customs informed their counterpart about the trouble Monday afternoon.

Nor'wester lashes two Police-criminals gunfight Thakurgaon upazilas

A large number of patients have to stay on the floors of Dinajpur Sadar Hospital where accommodation crisis along with shortage of

Lightning kills six

doctors hampers treatment. The photo was taken recently.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Nor'wester lashed several villages of Pirganj and ing around 300 houses and crops on vast areas, according to police and upazila administration.

During the nor'wester two people were killed by lighting at Velatoir and Khongaon villages under Pirganj upazila, UNO Abdur Rauf Mondal

The deceased were identified as Lipi Begum, 28, wife of Mohammad Saiful Islam of Velatoir village and Joty Chandra, 30, son of Bhabesh Chandra of Khangaon vil-

lightning were undergoing treatment at Pirganj Health Complex. Their condition was stated to be critical. in Kaharol upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

storm, villagers said. Besides, the nor'wester

phone service remained disrupted for several hours. The affected villages are

Hossangaon, Ambari, Shongaon, Gogore and

Crops especially maize and Ranishankoil upazilas damag- boro on vast tracts were damaged and scores of trees uprooted, in the hour long

> damaged mango and litchi orchards of the villages. Power supply and tele-

Velatoir, Khongaon, Raghunathpur, Vomradaha

and Ubdoil villages under Pirganj upazila and Bangaon villages under Two others injured by Ranishankoil upazila.

Ali, 10, a student of a madrasa of the same upazila, was killed as lightning struck him while he was playing on the madrasa

ground during rain.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia In Dinajpur, at least four people, including three of a family, were killed by lightning

Chandana Rani Roy, 22, wife of Tapan Chandra Roy and her two sisters-in-law Ratna Roy, 11, and Sadhana Roy,12, died on the spot as a thunderbolt struck them when they were gossiping on the veranda of Chandana's house during rain at Boigaon

village in the morning.

Sadhana and Ratna were lage. school students. In another incident, Ishaq

the law enforcers to return

The criminals also exploded 4-5 bombs during the gunfight

at Chuadanga village

Police and armed criminals locked in a gunfight at Shibnagar village in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga early yesterday.

However, there was no report of any casualty in the battle, which began at 2:30am and continued till 4:00am.

Police said, a patrol team of police found a gang of eight to ten moving near a mango orchard at the vil-

Sensing the presence of policemen, the gang blasted 7-8 bombs and opened fire at them forcing

Shikder Mashiur, Officerin-Charge (OC) of Damurhuda police station said additional police were later sent to the spot but none was arrested.

Contacted, police superintendent of Chuadanga Md Nazrul Islam said police have already launched a drive to nab the criminals.

Extortion of owners of mango orchards has gone up in Meherpur and Chuadanga in the last few days ahead of plucking ripe mango.

At least 15 incidents of nately. attacks on mango orchards took place in last General Hospital. 20 days in which 10 peo-

ple were injured.

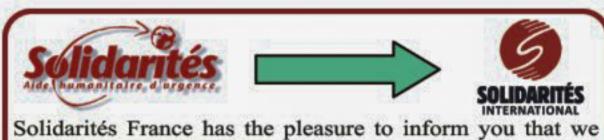
Besides, several mango orchards were set on fire, looted and guards beaten up as the owners declined to pay illegal toll.

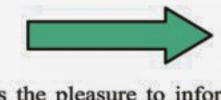
The latest incident took place on Tuesday night in Meherpur.

According to police, criminals demanded Tk 50, 000 toll from mango orchard owner Azizul of Khoksa in Sadar upazila several days

As Azizul did not meet the demand, the gang came to the orchard and chopped its guard Akter Hossain, 32, indiscrimi-

Akter is now undergoing treatment at Meherpur





are changing our name and logo from "Solidarités France" to "Solidarités International". The changes match the development of our organisation and

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