

# 5 to be hanged for killing housewife, girl in city

## 2 brothers get life term

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Five persons are to be hanged for killing two persons in two separate incidents.

The convicts are Nannu Miah, 30, Mohammad Kabir Hossain, 28, Mohammad Deen Islam, 28, Zahirul Islam alias Bhutto, 22, and Nazrul Islam, 28.

Of them, Nannu, Kabir, Deen Islam and Bhutto were convicted in the sensational Kajol murder case, and Nazrul in the Milon Akhter murder case.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, Dhaka Division yesterday handed out the judgement in the Kajol

murder case in a packed courtroom.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin found Nannu, Kabir, Deen Islam and Bhutto guilty of raping and murdering Kajol, 14.

The convicts broke down in tears in the dock on hearing the verdict.

The victim's parents present in the courtroom were satisfied with the judgement.

A case filed with the Demra Police Station on November 6 last year alleged that Nannu Miah, the victim's maternal uncle, took Kajol to his residence in the city's Demra

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# Police break up Kamal's press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A press conference called by AFM Kamal, a BNP rebel and mayoral candidate for Sylhet City Corporation polls, could not be held due to police intervention.

Kamal alleged that he was not allowed by the police to reach the Press Club where the press conference was scheduled to be held yesterday. In a written statement, he also blamed Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP for violating the election code by campaigning in favour of the four-party alliance candidate MA Haque.

Kamal also brought similar charges against AL central leaders-deputy leader of the opposition in the parliament Advocate M A Hamid, Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Abdus Samad Azad MP, Suranjit Sengupta, Abdul Jalil MP and others who took part in the election campaign in favour of AL-backed candidate, the incumbent Mayor Badar Uddin Kamran. They addressed a number of public meetings during the last few days in support of Kamran, he alleged.



Army vehicles, left, patrol Barisal city before their pullout from election duties on a government order yesterday. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, right, speaks at a last-minute election campaign in favour of the ruling alliance mayoral candidate in Sylhet. Barisal and Sylhet cities go to polls today.



PHOTO: STAR

# 2 die in gunfight between BNP factions in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two persons were killed and at least 15 injured in a gunfight between activists of two local factions of the ruling BNP at village Paityalkul in Sarafbhata union under Rangunia upazila of the district yesterday.

The dead were identified as Bhola Meah alias Bholaiya, 30, and

Jahangir, 25. Both were reportedly activists of the faction led by local BNP leader Babul, who is known as a supporter of party central leader and Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman.

The other faction led by another local BNP leader, Ismail, is said to be loyal to the prime minister's p a r l i a

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# Euros seized at ZIA, fake rupees in city: 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs seized 10,000 euros from an outgoing passenger at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday.

Besides, two currency smugglers were arrested from a city hotel on the day and more than five lakh fake Indian rupees were seized from their possession.

Tipped off, customs officials at ZIA stopped an outgoing passenger, Mahbubur Rahman, before he left for Singapore by a Biman flight. They recovered 10,000 Euro from h i s

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# Fatal flu alert Airlines asked to keep watch on passengers

NAIMUL HAQ

The Ministry of Health yesterday issued emergency guidelines for all airlines offices in Dhaka, asking them to keep watch on arriving passengers and crew for a new fatal disease with symptoms of pneumonia.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a worldwide alert after the disease --Severe Acute respira-

tory Syndrome (SARS) -- killed 10 people in Hong Kong and some other places in the world.

"There is nothing to panic. This is just a precautionary measure. We have not received any confirmed case of the disease", Dr Kanak Ranjan Talukder, Director of Communicable Disease, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Any sign of sickness should

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# Moudud promises to increase seats for women in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of seats reserved for women in the parliament will be increased and arrangements made for direct election to those seats.

Law, justice and parliamentary affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed stated this at the inaugural programme of the Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on "Violence Against Women".

The programme was organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the Bangladesh Parliament and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in a city hotel yesterday.

Talking on the advancement and empowerment of women the minister said, "Poverty is the number one factor behind violence against women. So we must fight poverty."

He also said it is important to create awareness among all so that violence is eliminated.

Speaking as chief guest, Speaker of the Parliament Jamiruddin Sircar said, "Most of our national laws are already in conformity with the provision of the CEDAW convention and laws and administrative measures continue to be taken for the

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Mar 20		6-10 pm
Mar 21	6-02 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
Mar 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-32	5-00
Maghrib	6-13	6-20
Esha	7-35	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR

A policeman stands guard in front of the US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday, as security was beefed up in diplomatic enclave ahead of a war threat to Iraq.