

## NEWS SNAPS

**Pedestrian killed in road mishap**

UNB, Benapole

A pedestrian was run over by a truck at local bus stand in Port thana on Tuesday.

The victim was Chand Miah, 35. Police seized the truck, but the driver fled the scene.

**Schoolgirl gangraped**

UNB, Benapole

A minor schoolgirl was gangraped by some youths at village Bujtala in Port thana on Tuesday.

Police said the youths took the little girl, a student of class V, to a fish firm. She was returning home from school. The miscreants raped her there one after another. It was not clear whether any case was filed or not.

**100-year-old statue stolen**

UNB, Barisal

A valuable statue was stolen from Shankar Math in Barisal town on Tuesday night.

Villagers said thieves broke into the temple at the dead of night and stole the marble-made statue. The statue was said to be 100 years old.

# Trans-border issues discussed at BDR-BSF conference in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

The Deputy Inspector General level conference of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) concluded in Sylhet on Monday.

Trans-border problems like killing of Bangladeshi nationals by Indian BSF and Indian civilians, border trespassing were discussed in the business sessions.

Bangladesh officials strongly refuted the Indian allegations about presence of Indian insurgents inside Bangladesh territory and unauthorised entry of Bangladeshi nationals into India. Bangladesh officials also protested killing and firing at unarmed and innocent Bangladeshi nationals on the borders by BSF and Indian civilians. BDR officials also asked for immediate stoppage of smuggling of arms, drugs and other items into Bangladesh territory, management of common rivers along the international boundary.

Other issues like construction of revetment on the border rivers, drug, arms trafficking and smuggling were discussed. The Indians assured of taking measures to stop drug and arms trafficking. Both sides agreed to take joint steps on maintaining the border rivers in compliance with the joint survey done earlier.

Both the sides agreed to take effective

measures in case of presence of such people. Both the sides agreed to take steps if any Bangladeshi is found to be engaged in criminal activities inside Indian territory, especially in tea gardens or border villages.

The Indian delegation left for Meghalaya through Tamabil border on Sunday afternoon.

During their stay in Sylhet, they visited the shrine of Hajrat Shabjalal (RA), Osmani Museum, temple of Sri Chaitanya at Golapganj on the concluding day.

The 10-member Indian team was headed by MC Parmar, Inspector-General of BSF, Tripura-Cachhar and Mizoram frontier. Other members were SC Sribastava, DIG of BSF, Assam-Meghalaya-Mizoram frontier and Nagaland, S Basumatary, DIG, BSF,

Shilong sector, SC Vaid, DIG, BSF, Tripura South sector, MI Khan, DIG, BSF, Cachhar and Mizoram sector, Mohindar Lal, ADIG, BSF, Gouhati, JP Mohla, ADIG, Ramesh Singh, ADIG, SA Alu, ADIG, BSF, Tripura North sector and Sushil Kumar, Deputy Commandant, BSF Shillong.

The Bangladesh side was led by Brigadier General Md Ibrahim Khalil, Deputy Director General of BDR.

The other members were Colonel Liaquat Ali Khan, Sector Commander, Mymensingh, Colonel Joinul Abedin, Colonel Nurul Sama, Sector Commander, Sylhet, Colonel AFM Ahmed Ullah Imam Khan, BDR Headquarters, Colonel Mohammad Hamidul Haque Sector Commander, Rangamati and Major Firoz-ur-Rahman BDR headquarters.

## Two acid victims die in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two acid victims died in Sirajganj within two days.

One 18-year-old girl and another blind beggar died after sustaining acid burn injuries by miscreants in Tarash and Shahjadpur upazilas in two days.

Police sources said Anju Khatun, of village Gopinathpur in Tarash upazila and another youth Abdur Razzaque, son of Asor Ali of the same village loved each other for a long period. But father of the victim arranged wedding of Anju with another youth in the area. When Razzaque heard the news, he called the victim who came out of her house on March 25. Then he threw acid on her person. As a result she

became critically injured and admitted to Dhaka PG Hospital where she died at 2 pm on March 28.

Another pathetic incident occurred at about 3 am on March 29 when a gang of miscreants threw acid on a blind beggar Balagol alias Thandul Miah, 51, of village Purbo Char Koizuri in Shahjadpur upazila. She was fast asleep with her wife when the miscreants threw acid on his person. He was critically injured and admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. As his condition deteriorated he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with the help of BRAC where he died.

The cause of the incident could not be known immediately. Two separate cases were lodged with police.

## Panchagarh road accident kills ASI

UNB, Panchagarh

A policeman was killed and a member of Ansar injured in a road accident at Battali on Panchagarh-Tunirhat Road on Monday night.

Police said ASI Sultan Ahmed and Ansar member Suvash were injured as

their motorcycle tumbled into a roadside ditch while they were returning home after duty.

They were rushed to Sadar hospital. Sultan later died while he was being moved to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

A badly damaged Gaibandha-Fulchhari road which requires immediate repair. A culvert on the important road is also seen unprotected.



PHOTO: STAR

Angry people in Mymensingh town burn the effigy of US President George W Bush. They protested the invasion of Anglo-US Coalition Force in Iraq on March 30.

## Minor boy's killer, 2 associates nabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested one miscreant along with two associates for killing his step-brother's minor boy after abduction.

He concealed the body after killing the boy on Monday.

The criminal, Bidyut Chandra Nath and his associates were produced before the court. At the court of metropolitan magistrate Monowarul Islam his two accomplices Shukha Dev Goshwami, 20, and Rajon Jalodash, 20, made confessional statement narrating details of the killing.

Earlier, Pahartoli thana police arrested principal accused Bidyut from Sabujbug area in Pahartoli thana. Acting on his confession police arrested Shukha Dev from Bangabari area in Kotoali thana and Rajon from Mirza Nagar in Sitakunda within four hours. At the court in the afternoon on Sunday

the accomplices confessed that the principal accused Bidyut abducted his step brother Swapan Chandra Nath's 10-year-old son Kazol Kanti Nath alluring him to give potato chips from Dhopapara of South Kattoli in Pahartoli thana at around 5.30 pm on Thursday. Bidyut in collaboration with Shukha Dev took the victim to the bank of a river at village Mirza Nagar in Sitakunda thana.

They strangled the minor boy and with the help of a boatman named Rajon Jalodash dropped the body in the river.

They further confessed that Bidyut, an accused of several other cases, asked his step-brother Swapan for some money which he needed for obtaining bail in a case. After being refused angry Bidyut planned to kill Swapan's innocent son Kazol.

In the court a five-day remand was prayed for the accused.

## Five hurt as miscreants attack landless families

UNB, Jhalakati

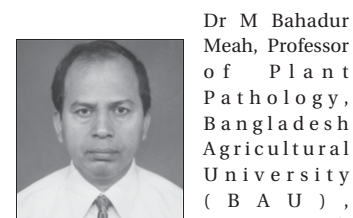
Five people, including women, were injured as miscreants who attacked landless families rehabilitated at Char Uttamabad in Nalchhiti upazila on Monday.

Witnesses said the culprits belonging to Eskandar Bahini, attacked the

poor families with sharp weapons as they refused to give them toll.

The injured -- Sultan Hawlader and his wife Noorjahan Begum, Saiful, Hashem Hawlader and Piyara Begum -- were admitted to Sadar hospital.

## BAU teacher honoured



Dr M Bahadur Meah, Professor of Plant Pathology, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh

was awarded on Wednesday the University Grants Commission (UGC) Award for research in the field of agriculture for the year of 1992, says a press release.

Minister for Education Dr M Osman Farooque MP, handed over the award to him at a function at UGC office in Dhaka. He won the award for research on "Prevalence and Control of Guava Anthracnose. Dr Meah, a deputed agricultural scientist is involved in USDA-Bangladesh Collaborative Research Programme for the development of IPM approach for vegetables in Bangladesh.

He is scheduled to go to USA on April 7 for higher research in IPM. If IPM approach is implemented in Bangladesh then crops will be grown in environment-friendly condition and environmental pollution from pesticides can be avoided, he expressed his views.

Dr Meah is the first scientist to establish an IPM laboratory at BAU where its activities go on since 1995.



PHOTO: STAR

Extra passengers are being accommodated on the rooftop of a Dhaka-bound bus at Hatikumrul crossing on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway in Sirajganj. There is a police camp nearby, but the law enforcers do not intervene. This is a common phenomenon here. As a result fatal road accidents occur here frequently.

## New CUJ president, secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Mustak Ahmad of Dainik Inquilab and Shahidul Alam of Dainik Rupali have been elected president and general secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) for the year 2003.

The election was held at the local press club auditorium from 9 am to 4 pm on Sunday with one-hour break. A total of 158 out of 175 members cast their votes.

Mustak Ahmad got 76 votes while his nearest opponent, former CUJ president M Nasirul Haq obtained 70 votes and outgoing president Kazi Jafrul Islam secured 12 votes. Shahidul Alam got 91 votes to beat his nearest contender, outgoing general secretary Abu Taher Mohammad (66 votes) of Dainik Purbokone.

Other elected office bearers are: vice president-Muhammad Shamsul Haq (Prothom Alo/ unopposed), joint secretary-Nazimuddin Shaymol (The Independent), treasurer- Swapan Mallik (Weekly Chattala/ unopposed), organising secretary- Reaz Haider Chowdhury (Purbokone), publication secretary- Yasin Hira (direct) and three executive members Nasiruddin Chowdhury (Dainik Azadi/ unopposed), Nooruddin Ahmad (Ajker Chattagram/ unopposed) and Noor Mohammad Rafiq (Purbokone/ unopposed). Election commissioner Abu Sufian declared the results in the afternoon.

## Army team defuses powerful bomb in Kishoreganj

UNB, Kishoreganj

An expert team of Bangladesh Army defused a powerful bomb here on Tuesday.

Police recovered the bomb from Chandipur Railway Colony here on Monday and called in the army explosive experts to defuse it.

Police arrested a youth and a girl from a hotel in the town on Tuesday.

Police raided the hotel at noon and arrested Sumon of Ukilpara in the town and Rekha of Katiadi upazila from its room number 45.

On February 21, police arrested another youth along with a girl from the hotel.

In another incident, local people seized a truck, carrying nine metric tons of rice worth about Tk 1.25 lakh, from in front of the district food godown on Tuesday.

On information, police rushed to the spot, seized the truck along with the rice.

## Three injured in Chandpur bomb explosion

UNB, Chandpur

Three people were injured, two seriously, in a bomb explosion at village East Lalpur in Matlab upazila on Monday.

Witnesses said the explosion occurred when some youths picked up a sweetmeat box, containing four bombs, from an abandoned house and then threw it to a nearby field where a few boys were playing football.

Two of the injured, Bappi, 13, and Baharuddin Pavel, 15, were moved to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical conditions.

Police visited the spot.