

SHAZNEEN CASE



PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet Mayor Badaruddin Ahmed Kamran (third from left) speaks as chief guest at the regional consultation meeting of the National Policy Review Forum 2003 at Sylhet yesterday. (From left) Joint Editor of Prothom Alo Abdul Qaiyum, CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, former vice-chancellor of SUST Prof. Mohammad Habibur Rahman, former chairman of Sylhet municipality AFM Kamal are seen, among others.

Armed robbers caught after firefight in Ctg

Police yesterday recovered arms and ammunition from a gang of robbers after a firefight that left two constables and a dacoit injured at Nandirhat in Hathazari upazila. The two injured constables are Tajul Islam and Khaled Hossain. Four of the dacoits were arrested on the spot and another in the city later. Two light guns, one...

Rapists rap victim into confinement

In yet another incident, brazen bullying rapists of a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee remain untouched while the victim has been forced into confinement at home for the past two weeks in Niamatpur upazila of Naogaon. An Islami Chhatra Shibir worker and a nephew of a BNP leader allegedly kidnapped the examinee in the afternoon of April 23 as she was returning home from her examination centre in Tanore upazila. They took her to an isolated area of Kondobpur at Kolma union of Tanore upazila and raped her. Later the victim took shelter at a house in the locality and filed a case with the Tanore Police Station in the same evening. However, around midnight, the...

Doped man 'strangles' wife

A drug addict husband yesterday allegedly strangled his wife at their residence at Mitford in the old part of the city yesterday. Johura Begum Kajal, 25, a nurse at the Mitford Hospital, was strangled allegedly by her husband Firoz Mia. A guard of the area caught Firoz while he was fleeing after 'killing his wife', sources said. He was later turned over to Kotwali police. Sources said the couple was married for two years. The husband was unemployed and used to torture his wife for dowry. Another source said Firoz killed her wife as she used to protest his being addicted to drugs. Nurses at the Mitford hospital yesterday boycotted their scheduled examination in protest at the murder of their colleague. A case was lodged with the Kotwali Police Station.

Hizbul Touhid cadre held in Barisal

A cadre of Hizbul Touhid, a radical Islamic organisation, was arrested from Shakokathi village in Gournadi upazila under Barisal district yesterday. According to police, the arrestee, Jamal Sharif, is a regional leader of the organisation. Local people alleged that Sharif was involved in setting fire to Khalifa Bari Mosque on May 6. Police also recovered some important documents from his possession. He was produced before a court here yesterday. The court sent him to jail for hajjat.

Cross-exam of 13th PW ends, next hearing on May 19

Cross-examination of Mohammad Moslem Howlader, the 13th prosecution witness in the Shazneen case and a domestic help at their (Shazneen's) residence, ended yesterday. The cross-examination by the defence took place in the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression. SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

India names its envoy as Pakistan makes short-list

As part of the fresh peace initiatives India and Pakistan recently announced restoration of full diplomatic relations. Menon would succeed Vijay Nambiar, who was recalled by India after the terrorist attack on Parliament on December 13, 2001. Nambiar later took over as India's permanent representative at the United Nations. Pakistan is yet to nominate its High Commissioner to India. Foreign Minister Khurshid Muhammad Kasuri said in Islamabad that his government would soon propose the name of its High Commissioner to the Indian government for acceptance. A host of names, including the present Foreign Office Spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan were reportedly under consideration of the Pakistani government. IANS from Islamabad adds: A leader of ruling Pakistan Muslim said the names of journalist-turned-diplomat Maleeha Lodhi and Riaz Muhammad Khan, also a career diplomat, topped the list of candidates for the New Delhi post. Lodhi has twice served as Pakistan's ambassador to the US. Earlier this month, there were reports she had been appointed...



PHOTO: STAR

SAVE THE PRESS... Journalists of Sitakunda and members of the Jatiya Lekhok Forum form a human chain in front of the Muktagong in the capital yesterday, demanding immediate rescue of abducted journalist Atahar Siddique Khosru.

PM opens highway to the northwest

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the 55-km Nalka-Hatikumrul-Bonpara highway that reduces the distance between the capital and four northwestern districts by 50 km. Constructed at a cost of Tk 337.18 crore with assistance from the World Bank and the government's own funds, the road will cut travel time by at least an hour and save fuel for commuters from the capital to Rajshahi, Natore, Chapainawabganj and Kushtia, officials said during the inauguration. The road has a separate lane for slow-moving vehicles and arrangements for vehicle toll collection. Private operators will collect toll for five years and also look after the road. After unveiling the plaque of the road at Bonpara, the prime minister offered munajat and addressed the inaugural function. "We believe in work, not in rhetoric," she said adding that her government in last 19 months constructed a large number of roads, bridges and culverts to improve the country's communication network," she said. The prime minister asked everyone to properly utilise the country's limited resources and check wastage. "We'll have to depend on our own available resources and must ensure their optimum utilisation considering the changed world scenario... We'll have to ensure maximum utilisation of infrastructural facilities and increase internal resources to attain self-reliance," she said. The prime minister thanked the development partners for their assistance in constructing the road and asked all concerned to ensure its proper maintenance. The function was also addressed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Deputy Minister for Communications Asadul Habib Dulu, Deputy Minister for LGRD Ruhul Qudus Talukder Dulu, local MP Mozammel Huq and World Bank official Stein Lundebye.

Turn mosques into resistance centres Saddam urges Iraqis

Saddam Hussein has urged Iraqis to transform mosques into centres of resistance, a newspaper reported yesterday quoting a message purported to have been written by the ousted president. Al-Qods Al-Arabi daily said it believed Saddam had written and signed a six-page letter dated May 7 which it had received by fax. "I call on you, children of Iraq, to turn the mosques into centres of resistance and to ensure the triumph of religion, Islam and the homeland, and to make the enemy understand, through facts, that you hate him," it said. "Save the homeland," the message said. "Enrol in the resistance. Do not give up your petrol and your wealth. Fight against the occupier and his agents, boycott them. It is a religious and patriotic duty." The letter bitterly attacked all Iraq's neighbours. It accused "the Syrian regime of welcoming the opposition, traitors, who it allowed to contact the CIA and Britain while refusing to allow militants to stay a few days" in Syria. "The Saudi regime allowed the invaders to sully the soil of the Prophet Mohammed," while Kuwait was branded "a liar and a traitor." Iran was charged with "hypocrisy and plotting against Arabs and...

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| | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
| May 11 | | 6-32 pm |
| May 12 | 5-18 am | |

| Prayer Timings | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| May 11 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-30 | 5-00 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-38 | 6-42 |
| Esha | 8-00 | 8-30 |