

SNAPS

Man commits 'suicide'

**BSS, Kishoreganj**  
One person allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at his house at village Roshidabad in the Sadar upazila on Monday.

Police identified the man as Biplob, 26. He was rushed to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital in a critical condition where doctors declared him dead.

The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Kishoreganj Sadar thana.

Human chain

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

The Global Village, a Rangamati-based environmental organization, formed a human chain in front of the deputy commissioner's office marking the World Environment Day.

Activists of the Global Village, local journalists and cultural activists joined the human chain. Another human chain was formed by "Sada Jagrota Seba Sangshad", an NGO, in front of the DC office demanding end to child labour.

BSCIC advocacy meet on iodised salt

**BSS, Narsingdi**

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), Narsingdi held an advocacy meeting on use of iodised salt here.

A K M Mostafizur Rahman, Director Universal Iodized Salt project attended the meeting as chief guest.

A total of 100 participants, including district salt wholesellers, NGO representatives, journalists and local elite were present on the occasion.

Workshop on agri products marketing

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

A two-day workshop on marketing agricultural products will be held here on June-15-16.

Sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said peasants from the grassroots level will take part in the workshop, aimed at enhancing their marketing capacity. Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Maniklal Dewan will inaugurate the workshop.

Body recovered

**A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

Police recovered the body of a young man from a field of Mirpur upazila.

The victim was identified as Abdul Alim 25 son of Nabis uddin of Islamiy in Mirpur.

Police said, two men named Halim and Panjab of the village called Alim out of his house at about 8 PM on Monday. Since then Alim did not return home. The body was recovered from a field. He was strangled.

A case was filed with Mirpur Police Station accusing Halim and Panjab. Police arrested them.



Employees and workers of Rangpur Sugar Mills in a procession in the mill area protesting proposed lay-off of the mill (left) and some of the employees wearing black cloths with words written that they are prepared to die to save the mill. Star photo

Protests continue against Rangpur Sugar Mill lay-off

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

Labour unrest gripped Rangpur Sugar Mills in Gaibandha, demanding cancellation of its proposed lay-off, now under process.

Several thousand employees, labours and sugar cane growers continued rallies on the mill premises and processions in the area protesting the decision.

Leaders of the mill's workers union at a press conferences

recently claimed that the Ministry of Industries on May 21 gave a proposal to the Ministry of Finance to release Tk 20.18 crore for payments to 1120 employees prior to the lay-off.

They declared that they would intensify their movement against the proposed lay-off.

They said the mill, set up in 1954, is the only heavy industry in Gaibandha district. Nearly 40 lakh people including 2000 employees and workers, 35000 sugar cane

growers and 2000 businessmen are linked with the mill. Its lay-off will adversely affect the socio-economic condition of the district, they said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Sugar Mills Labour Federation extended all out support to movement against the proposed lay-off, sources said.

When contacted, MMZ Haider, General Manager (Administration) of the mill, said he has not yet received any letter from higher authorities regarding lay-off.

Pabna BNP leader stabbed to death

**BSS, Pabna**

A BNP leader was killed by unidentified assailants at Patkeybari village under Sadar upazila on Friday night, police said.

Police told BSS that a gang of 7 to 8 assailants stormed into the house of Billal Hossain, 32, took him to Patkeybari village and stabbed him to death.

Billal, son of Amjad Hossain of Naynamoti was general secretary of BNP Ward No 12 unit in Pabna town.

Police recovered the body and sent to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Pabna police station.

Girl gangraped

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar**

A newly married teenage girl was kidnapped and gangraped at Patabari village under Ukha upazila by a gang of armed miscreants.

Ukha police said on Friday that a gang of 10 allegedly led by one Nurul Alam broke into her father's house at around 2:30 am, took her to a nearby jungle on gun point and gangraped her.

The girl, married about a month back, came to her father's house from her husband's house in Cox's Bazar.

Police recovered her in a critical condition and sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar hospital.

Police arrested one of the rapists, Kamal Uddin. Victim's brother Ali Hossain filed a case against 10 persons. It is alleged that Nurul Alam had proposed to marry her three months back.

Seven get Ph.D from RU

**A RU CORRESPONDENT**

The Education Council of Rajshahi University (RU) awarded Ph.D to seven researchers and M Phil to three.

Those who got Ph.D are Abul Hossain and Golam Rahid (Zoology), AHM Ismail Hossain (Botany), Prof M Enamul Haq (Psychology), Kazi Alamgir Kabir (Institute of Bangladesh Studies); and AHM Kamrujjaman and Abdul Aziz Faisal (Institute of Biological Science).

The M Phil degree holders are Shariful Amin (English), Anarul Haq (History) and Shazzad Hossain (Physic).

'Dissolve Feni AL body'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni**

Feni district Awami League vice-president Akramuzzaman alleged that the party's district president Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury was involved in the incidents that marred the May 31 party meeting in the town.

He demanded dissolution of the present committee and formation of an ad-hoc committee.

Party activists loyal to the district president and linked with Hazari marred the meeting, he alleged at a press conference at his house on Thursday.

Water supply, sanitation

5-day int'l confce in Rangamati from today

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

The Asian Regional Network (ARN) of Water Aid Donors begins a five-day conference on 'rural safe water supply and sanitation through partnership' in the town today.

Fifty participants from home and abroad will take part in the conference, according to sources.

Representatives from some African countries and the United Kingdom (UK) are also expected to participate.

Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Maniklal Dewan will inaugurate the conference, hosted by Green Hill, a local NGO.

Some Asian countries where water aid donors support rural water supply programmes with funds hold such conferences in countries in the region.

Moulvibazar gas field development

Unocal submits proposal to Petrobangla

**IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet**

The US company Unocal is preparing for development of the Moulvibazar gas field soon.

The 40 million dollar programme includes drilling of two new production wells, construction of a gas processing plant and 20 kilometre pipeline to link the gas field with Petrobangla's North-South Pipeline (Kailashthal-Ashuganj).

A detailed plan of action has been placed before the Petrobangla for approval, sources said on Friday.

They hoped that the programme will be okayed soon.

The proposed wells (MV-4 and MV-5) will be within a short distance from existing MV-2 and MV-3 wells in Moulvibazar Gas Field, developed by the then Occidental company.

The field is in the Magurchhara structure. Preliminary structural work will be started soon while drilling would be started in late 2004, the sources said.

Successful completion of production wells will enable the com-

pany to supply 150 MMCF of gas every day to Petrobangla from the four wells including the existing two, the sources added.

Unocal may entrust German drilling company Deutag for drilling the new wells. Deutag was involved in drilling wells in Magurchhara, Bibiyana and Jalalabad gas fields, developed by the then Occidental, which left Bangladesh by handing over its business to Unocal in late 1999.

10 Ctg shrimp factories face water crisis

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Short supply of water by WASA during peak hours is hampering fish processing in factories at Sagorika industrial area.

Production in 10 factories is being threatened, Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFFEA) sources said.

They said, it is peak season now and shrimps worth around Tk five crore are brought to the factories every day for processing, for which enough eater is required.

But in the last few days, valves in WASA supply lines leading to the factories remained shut at night, they alleged. This is mysterious they said and blamed a section of dishonest WASA employees for this.

Attention of WASA authorities was drawn to this problem several times, but to no effect, they said.

Meanwhile, a BFFEA press release called upon the authorities concerned to solve the problem immediately to save the second largest foreign exchange-earning sector.

Two killed in Gopalganj, Kushtia

**STAR NATIONAL DESK**

Two persons were killed on Monday in Gopalganj and Kushtia.

Our Gopalganj Correspondent reported that housewife Kazal was murdered allegedly by her husband Sabu Sheikh at village Manikdaha under Gopalganj Sadar over a family feud Monday night.

On the night of the incident, they quarrelled and at one stage Sabu hit her with a hammer causing her instantaneous death.

A case was filed with Gopalganj police station. The husband is absconding.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reported that a maternal uncle killed his six-year-old nephew at Bhatapara on the outskirts of Kushtia town on Monday night.

Police on Tuesday arrested the uncle Abdur Razzak along with arms and some ammunition from his house at Berbaria in Sadar Upazila.

According to police and the victim's family, Abdur Razzak, 27, allegedly belonging to an outlawed party went to his sister's house at Bhatapara on Monday and demanded Tk 5,000. But sister Kaniz refused.

Later, Razzak called his nephew Jahidul and took him out saying that he would give him a shirt. Since then the boy was missing.

After filing of a general diary (GD) with Sadar police station accusing Razzak, police arrested Razzak and recovered a revolver with bullets.

During interrogation, Razzak admitted that he killed his nephew.

Bagerhat Selim's men hold rally, threaten Khaleque for his remarks

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, labour front of ruling BNP, at a rally at Bagerhat declared Awami League leader and former state minister Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP "unwanted" in Bagerhat for his recent remarks against BNP leader MAH Selim MP.

Speakers at the rally, held on Thursday, blamed Talukder Khaleque for "conspiring to create lawlessness and political unrest in Bagerhat district". Selim is president of Bagerhat BNP.

They urged Khaleque to withdraw his remarks or to face "dire consequence".

The Sramik Dal also brought out procession and burnt an effigy of Talukder.

When asked on Friday, Khaleque who is general secretary of Khulna city AL, said Bagerhat district is "nobody's personal property".

Rather, the district has been turned into a haven for terrorists, harboured by ruling party MP Selim, he said. "There is no power on earth but Allah to prevent me from entering Bagerhat any time I wish", Khaleque said.

Sarder Liaquat Ali, president of Bagerhat Sramik Dal expressed his firm determination not to allow Khaleque enter Bagerhat.

Crimes decrease in Barisal, police records say

**AKTER FARUK from Barisal**

Crimes including acid attack on women in Barisal division decreased in the first quarter of this year compared to those in the corresponding period last year.

But allegations of violation of women increased, according to police records at the DIG office.

Police officials claimed that a considerable percentage of cases regarding violation of women were found to be false during investigation.

During January-April this year, 2173 incidents of crimes were recorded with different police stations in the six districts in the division.

The number is 700 less than that recorded during the same period last year.

Fifty-seven murders took place in January-April last year, which came down to 51 during the same period this year. Incidents of robbery came down to 18 from 20 and acid attack to two from four, the records showed.

But allegations of rape of women rose to 69 from 58 and of torture to 339 from 245.

A good percentage of the allegations proved "false, fictitious or revengeful" during investigation, police officials said.

The officials however said crimes by activists of ultra right wing parties are increasing in the division. Strong measures should be taken without any of political consideration to improve the law and order, they said.

SI suspended for offering bribe to police super

**UNB, Sirajganj**

A police sub-inspector has been suspended for offering bribe to the superintendent of police of the district.

Police sources said Reazuddin, sub-inspector of Salanga police station, offered Tk 5,000 to Superintendent of Police Shahidul Huq to hold back his transfer to Kajipur police station.

Reaz was closed to the district police lines.

UNDP resumes activities in CHT

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has resumed development activities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) with a preliminary allocation of Tk 12 crore for pilot schemes.

The UNDP suspended all development activities in CHT in 2001 following abduction of a British and two Danish engineers from Kalapahar area in Naniarchar upazila on February 16 that year.

It resumed activities after a thorough risk assessment study in the CHT.

A ceremony will be held on June

14 at Rangamati marking resumption of UNDP activities.

Parbattya Chattragram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) chief Jotirindriya Bodhipriyo Larma alias Santu Larma is expected to attend the function as chief guest.

The function will also be attended by other tribal leaders and high government officials, sources said.

To begin with, two upazilas in each of the three CHT districts has been brought under the pilot schemes, the sources said.

These are Panchhori and Matiranga of Khagrachhori; Thanchi and Sadar of Bandarban and Sadar and Billalchhori of Rangamati district.

Six die in separate incidents in 2 dists

**STAR NATIONAL DESK**

Six persons died in separate incidents in Gaibandha and Rangpur in three days.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Two children drowned in Ghagot river in Sadullapur upazila while they were taking bath on Wednesday.

The victims are Saddam Mia, 6, and Al-Amin, 8, of village Badiapara.

Our Rangpur Correspondent reports: A father and his son died in an abandoned well on Tuesday at Neejpara village in Kaunia upazila.

The victims are Mostafa, 42, and his son Selim, 14. Police and locals told this correspondent that Selim's father asked him to get into an abandoned kutcha well to make it

usable. As soon as he got down he cried for rescue. Then he became unconscious. His father Mostafa was waiting on the ground. He got down.

Neighbours recovered their bodies.

In another incident, two persons were killed by lightning on Monday at remote Paschhimpara village under Badargonj upazila in Rangpur. Six others were injured.

The dead were identified as Shafiu, 17, and Kamrun Nahar, 14, a girl student.

The injured are Faziul, 35, a Union Parishad member, Belal, 45, Bulbul, 38, Ashab Ali, 65, Shafiqul, 60, and Momina, 30, a housewife.

rifles, one shutter gun and 68 bullets.

The convicts were also fined Tk, 30,000 each.

Procession by Sirajganj Spinning Mill workers

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj**

Workers and employees of Sirajganj Spinning and Cotton Mills brought out a procession and paraded the main streets of the town protesting the "alleged more to shut down the mill".

They also handed over a memorandum to the deputy commissioner to take steps for keeping the mill running, withdrawal of termination orders on some labour leaders and payment of two months' outstanding salary.

Nationalised after independence, the mill was handed over to its owners in 1982. But it was closed in 1996 and reopened 1999.

The ownership was changed in 2001. The mill has about 600 workers and employees.

Killer to die, five get life term for possessing illegal arms in 2 dists

**STAR NATIONAL DESK**

One person has been sentenced to death for murdering a woman in Faridpur and five others to life term for possessing illegal arms in Kushtia.

Our Faridpur Correspondent reports: Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Zahidul Islam gave death sentence to Belayet Hossain Belal, 30, for murdering 26-year-old Amina Begum alias Luky, a female employee at Faridpur Family Clinic.

A Kushtia correspondent reports: Additional district Judge of Kushtia, Anwar Hossain, sentenced five persons to life term for possessing illegal firearms.

The convicts are Rahat Ali, Abdur Razzak, Moyezuddin Fakir, Tanser Ali and Nazrul Islam of Kursha in Mirpur upazila.

All were cadres of outlawed Gono Mukti Fojj (GMF), according to police.

Police raided the house of one Angel Hossain at village Mollikpur in Mirpur on April 16, 2002.

Sensing police presence, the miscreants opened fire on police.

After an hour-long gun fight, police arrested them with two