

## SNAPS

## Mason electrocuted

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A mason was electrocuted at College Para in Nabinagar Pourashabha, a municipality on Monday morning.

The dead was identified as Zakir Hossain, 28, of village Aliabad in Nabinagar municipality. He came in contact with a live electric wire while working on the rooftop of an under construction building.

## Illegal arms factory unearthed

UNB, Kushtia

Police unearthed an unauthorised arms factory and recovered arms and arms-making equipment from a house at Dakkhinpara village in Sadar upazila Sunday night.

Police raided the house of Etim Ali and recovered a pipe-gun, huge pipes and other arms-making equipment and two rounds of bullet. Police arrested Etim Ali and his wife Rahima Begum.

## Two held with current net

UNB, Kishoreganj

Two people were arrested along with current net worth Tk 60,000 from Bhoirop upazila Sunday.

Police said they arrested Joy Dhar and Jilur Rahman of Brahmanbaria district when they brought the net in a boat to sell at Baganbari area. When produced the court sent them to jail hajat rejecting their bail petition.



## Nilphamari Zila Samity executives

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A 29-member executive committee of the Dhaka-based Nilphamari Zila Samity has been formed with Md Aminul Hossain Sarker, ex-envoy of Bangladesh in Kuwait as its president and Dr Zahid Hossain Proshan, a noted scientist, as its general secretary.

The new committee was formed at the biennial conference of the Samity held recently at the Planning and Development Academy at Nilkhet in Dhaka.

AR Saber, former member of the Telegraph and Telephone Board and ex-president of the Samity presided over the conference. Asaduzzaman Noor, member of parliament (MP), Nilphamari-2 constituency was the chief guest. Dr Hamida Banu Shobha MP, was present as special guest.

Other office-bearers are Md Tajul Islam, M Mansur Ali, Jafar Iqbal Siddiquee, and Golam Rabbi -vice-presidents, MA Qudus and Zakaria Mukta-joint secretaries, Jamil Ahmed Siddiquee-Treasurer, Abul Kalam Shamsujoha-organising secretary, Nilufar Sultana-secretary, women's affair, SA Islam-publicity secretary, Tazul Islam-office secretary, Naimul Amin Patwary-social service and disaster management secretary and Jabed Sadek Chowdhury-sport, education and student affairs secretary.

Members: AR Saber, Md Sattar Ali, Md Modabber Hossain and others.

## Pisciculture gaining popularity

BSS, Narsingdi

Pisciculture is gaining popularity among youths in the district.

A good number of educated youths received training on pisciculture form the Youth Development Centre and the Fishery Department. They have been earning their livelihood by the profitable business.

They are also being provided with loans by the government. Besides, Bangladesh Krishi Bank and Sonali Bank in the district are providing them with short term loans.

According to the Fishery Department office here, the number of fish farm has increased in all the six upazilas of the district.

About 500 small and large fish farms are running business and earning about Tk ten crone every year, sources at the office said.

## Conference

UNB, Chandpur

The monthly conference of the district police department on crimes was held at the conference room of Police Super on Sunday.

High police officials, officers-in-charge (Ocs) of all upazilas and in-charge of all police camps attended the conference.

## Cheating in HSC exam without going to hall!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Cheating in public examinations normally takes place at examination halls. But a HSC examinee has evolved a unique way of cheating without going to the hall.

The HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate Examination) examinee and a teacher at a coaching centre in the town have been arrested for their innovative mischief.

The teacher, Masud Karim, went to Satkhira post office to dispatch a parcel of forged answer scripts with fake seal and signature of Satkhira Government College principal in favour of the controller of Jessore

Board on June 14.

Being confused, the post office staff informed the principal, who informed police.

Police rushed to the spot, seized the parcel and arrested Masud.

On interrogation, Masud said the forged answer scripts were of Abdullah Al-Mamun who was appearing at the HSC examination as a 'casual candidate' from Satkhira Government College centre.

Police later arrested Abdullah-Al-Mamun, son of Abu Bakar Siddique of Sultanpur in Satkhira Pourashabha.

Masud said the answer scripts

were supplied by Mamun and he (Masud) wrote the answers. Masud hailed from Jugia village in Kushtia.

Earlier, the controller of Jessore Board had informed Satkhira Government Principal College Mokarram Hossain that three answer scripts of English First Paper, Bengali First Paper and Bengali Second Paper were dispatched to the Board in an ordinary parcel on June 7.

The principal then requested the Satkhira postmaster in writing to inform him if any person goes to the post office to send any parcel using his seal and signature.

## RCC tax reduction

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, on Sunday declared reduction in proposed city corporation taxes from July 1.

He announced this at a press conference held at the city corporation building on the day.

He declared that the reduced tax for thatched house would be Tk 50 and for tin-shed house Tk 150. The reduction is applicable for houses used for residential purposes.

He further announced that tax for financially insolvent persons, insolvent freedom fighters, retired persons, dilapidated houses and houses built with bank loan would be reduced substantially through review process which might be 50 per cent. The process will benefit 19,000 holdings out of 38,000 holdings, Minu told this at the press conference.

The decision was taken in view of rising resentment and demand of people because of exorbitant rise in proposed tax.

However, tax for commercial enterprises will same, he maintained.

Commissioners and corporation officials were present in the press conference.

## 45 freedom fighters not getting allowance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Forty-five freedom fighters in Kalia upazila are not getting monthly allowance from the government for the last eleven months.

They are among the 154 freedom fighters who had been getting allowances during the tenure of the immediate past Awami League government.

They are now deprived as the present government made a provision that freedom fighters have to be on two official lists to get the monthly allowance.

Taking advantage of this provision, names of the 45 freedom fighters have been dropped and new names included in lists, some of them alleged while talking to his correspondent.

## Woman killed in road mishap

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A woman was killed when hit by a power tiller at Baro Bari village under the Sadar thana on Monday.

Amena Begum, wife of one Afser Ali, was fatally injured when the power tiller knocked her down as she was drying straw on the road.

She was taken to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

## 4 children die of pneumonia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Four children died of pneumonia in Aditmar upazila in the last three days till Monday.

Over 10 children are suffering from the disease because of 'adverse weather', health officials said.

The dead, aged between two and eight month, are Mominul and Saon of Durgapur village, Masum of Char Kula Ghat village and Manik of Lalmonirhat Sadar, sources at the local health complexes said.

According to sources at union health complexes, pneumonia has broken out in different areas of the two upazilas.

## Trees felled during govt's plantation campaign

## Rangpur VTI students stage protest, submit memo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Students and teachers of Rangpur Vocational Institute (VTI) staged demonstrations in the town protesting felling of about 300 trees and illegal occupation of a land adjoining the VTI by some flower shop owners.

They also staged a sit-in and handed over a memorandum to the district administration for steps against the Zila Parishad's alleged "secret" allotment of the land to the shop owners, who were evicted

during the 'operation clean heart' last year.

The land belongs to the Zila Parishad. The trees were planted by VTI students and teachers after taking permission from the Zila Parishad, they said. But these were felled on June 12 by the shop owners, reportedly with permission from the Zila Parishad.

The VTI authorities also lodged an FIR with the Kotwali thana against the flower shop owners for felling the trees.

An official at the Zila Parishad

when contacted told this correspondent that the shop owners were not given permission to fell the trees and occupy the land. But their prayer for allotment of the land outside the VTI boundary wall are under consideration, he said.

The VTI authorities in the memorandum said security of students will be hampered if the land is allotted to the shop owners. The VTI has a large number of female students on roll, it said.



Unabated lifting of earth from the bed of the old Brahmaputra has made the town protection embankment in Mymensingh town vulnerable.

## 'Outlaw' nabbed, arms-making tools recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police raided a house at Kaburual village in the Sadar upazila, arrested an alleged outlaw along with his wife and recovered some arms, ammunition and arms-making tools.

Police said, the arrested person - Etem Ali - is a member of outlawed Gono Mukti Foj. Ali and his wife Rahima Khatun were involved in illegal arms-making, police said.

Two pipe guns, two rifles, 20 bullets and some arms-making tools were recovered from the house in the drive.

Our Correspondent, Barisal Country wide checking of road transports will execute today 17 June as special drive for recovery of illegal arms, drugs, stolen items and detaining criminals. In a order

issued by the police head quarter (Memo-no-c and B/116-2000/869 (1000)/date-12/6/03) directed all police stations to start and continue this checking transportation from 9 Am to 5 pm on Tuesday June 17 simultaneous on all roads and highways through out the country. The police stations are ordered to report D/T of Range offices about the results of the checking through the respective district SP offices within 9 AM Wednesday June 18.

In that order all police personnels are also directed not to harass any public or passengers during this operation and check all papers and goods of the driver owners or passenger of the road transport and to avoid traffic jam or disruption of public and private road transportation.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Sohail as he came to the house of one of his friends, police said.

On Sunday, local human rights organisations, NGOs and women's bodies brought out processions protesting the alleged rape and handed over memoranda to the administration demanding arrest of the rapists.

## Acid attack by former husband

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A divorced woman suffered seriously burn injuries when acid was thrown on her allegedly by her former husband in Mahinanda area of the city.

The victim-- Monoyara Begum, 25, -- was admitted to Rashahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

She came under the attack by her former husband Abdur Razzak when she was asleep at her house Monday night.

A case has been filed with Mathar thana under Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

## Withdrawal of nomination sought

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Bangabandhu Parishad and journalists of Netrakona working in different national dailies in two separate statements have demanded of the government to withdraw the nomination of SQ Chowdhury from the candidature of secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

A RU Correspondent has reported that the Rajshahi University unit of Bangabandhu Parishad in a statement termed SQ Chowdhury as a war criminal because of his involvement in anti-liberation activities in 1971.

The Parishad has urged the government to appoint a competent person for the post of OIC secretary general.

Signatories to the statement are Social Faculty dean AHM Zihadul Karim, Professor Moklesur Rahman, Mirza Wajed Beg, Anando Kumar Shaha, Rustom Ali, Dr Sarwar Jahan and Professor Rezaul Karim.

Our Netrakona correspondent reported that the journalists of Netrakona working in different dailies in another statement have also demanded of the government to withdraw the defamation case filed against the editors of two national newspapers by SQ Chowdhury.

Signatories to the statement are Babu Shamolendu Pal, Secretary of Netrakona Press Club, Kuntel Biswas, Prothom Alo, Prodi Joarder, Bangla Bazar Patrika, Sonjoy Sarker of Sangbad, Al-Azad of Probat, Yasinur Rahman of Jugantor, Mizanur Rahman of Janakantha, Mizanur Rahman of Manab Jamin, Jahangir Alam of The Daily Star, Liton Dhor Gupta of Bhorer Kagoj and Chandon Sarkar of Bhorer Dak.

## Most allegations of rape false, reveals Forensic deptt at SBMCH

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

The forensic department at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) has revealed sensational facts about alleged rape victims.

In about ninety per cent of such cases, it failed to find any proof of rape.

From January 2002 to April 19 this year, the forensic department examined 124 alleged rape victims, aged between 11 to 22. Among them, 26 were married and the rest 98 unmarried.

In forensic tests, only 15 were 'raped', of whom ten were unmarried and five married.

Forty of the 98 unmarried 'victims' were found to be 'virgin'. Only ten of them were found 'raped' and the rest 58 of the unmarried 'victims' were 'habituated in sexual inter-

course'.

Four of the unmarried teenaged girls had abortion more than once and seven of them were pregnant. Only five of the married 26 girls were found 'raped'. Others had 'past intercourse.'

According to forensic experts at the hospital, it is hard to determine whether a girl is raped or not if she is married, habituated to sexual intercourse or she delayed in reporting to the hospital or had taken bath after the incident.

Police official explained that most of the cases of alleged rape are lodged long after the incident. So it is difficult to determine whether a victim is really raped or not, and consequently inquiry and punishment is also not satisfactory.

## RU teachers protest Momtaj killing

RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) on Monday brought out a silent procession on the campus protesting the murder of former Awami League MP and freedom fighter Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed in Natore.

Professor Amtajul M Haq led the procession brought out under the banner of "Shikha Samaj" (teachers association).

In a statement signed by 154 teachers, they also demanded arrest and punishment of the killers.

The statement alleged that the government failed to maintain law and order. Incidents of killing, rape,

extortion and other acts of crime increased after the four-party alliance government took over, it said.

They also urged the government to take effective steps to maintain academic atmosphere on campuses including the Rajshahi University.

The signatories and processionists included RU Teachers Association President Syain Uddin, general secretary Abdul Latif, Prof Rahmatulla Eman Jalab Uddin, Prof Husibul Alam Proshan, Prof Mijan Uddin, Julfikar Motin, Shafiqunnabi and Md Shorab Ali.

## Use of pesticides on vegetable, crop fields causes health hazard

UNB, Netrakona

Rampant use of pesticides on vegetable and crop fields are causing a serious health hazard across the district.

Extensive use of pesticides is also polluting environment and affecting ecological balance, Agricultural experts said.

Growers use different kinds of pesticides on paddy, wheat, potato, sweet potato, pumpkin, gourd, cauliflower, cabbage, lady's finger and other vegetables to achieve good harvest.

The agronomists said effect of

the ingredients of pesticides remains active on raw vegetables for at least one month after spraying of the pesticides. So, one should not eat such cereals and vegetables within this period, they said.

Long term consumption of pesticide-sprayed cereals and vegetables may affect kidney, liver, skin and nerve system and cause fatal disease like cancer, they added.

"Besides, the insecticides sprayed on the vegetable and crop fields mix with rainwater and roll down into the rivers, ponds and canals affecting fish resources adversely", they said.

Cattle are also being affected by eating insecticide-sprayed grass, paddy plant and vegetables, the agronomists said.

Besides, indiscriminate use of pesticides is responsible for elimination of different insects and pests, which are beneficial to crops and ecological balance.

Different brands of insecticides are available in various markets in the district. Besides, low quality Indian insecticides have flooded different markets of the district. Farmers also prefer using Indian pesticides due to its low price.

## Our glorious national heritage

This is an old mosque situated at Kasma village in Gournadi thana, 30-kilometre off Barisal divisional city. It was built during the period of Khan Jahan Ali. Many visitors come to see the mosque named Allah'r Masjid from far flung areas. They donate generously here in cash and kind including cocks. A mosque management committee looks after it though it is under control of the Archaeology Department. The brick masonry mosque has a seven feet thick wall and nine tombs. It stands on six huge pillars. The government renovated this glorious national heritage recently maintaining its characteristics. Steps should be taken to turn the place into a tourist spot.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

