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NATIONAL

Accused

caught

by people.

by people

escapes police.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An accused in a murder case who

escaped police custody during treatment at a hospital was caught

Arif Hossain, 25, son of Forkan

Hossain of Haripur in the Sadar

upazila was arrested on May 11 last

at the Kushtia General Hospital

Four police constables were sus-

He escaped while bring treated

On Saturday, people caught Arif

from Haripur bazaar and handed

year on charge of murder.

pended after he escaped.

Ctg city area

for five days

without power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

People of Chandonagar area under

him over to police.

SNAPS

Acid attack on three of a family BSS, Natore

Three members of a family sustained acid burns at village Talmo under Barigram Upazila in the district on Tuesday.

According to police, some unidentified miscreants threw acid on Siraj Udder, 45, his wife Parvin Akter, 38 and their daughter Sima, 6. Police suspected that the incident was a sequel to previous enmity. The injured are now undergoing treatment at Natore Modern Hospital. A case was filed with Barigram Police Station.

Football player gunned down

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Football player Hafizur Rahman was gunned down at Verakhali village under Harinakundu upazila on Sunday night. Police suspected that the killers might be members of any extremist party.

2 'outlaws' held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Two alleged members of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party were arrested from Hari Khali and Kathamari villages with a pipe gun Sunday gight Sunday night.

They are Ashim Dhali and Solaiman Ghazi, according to Officer-in Charge of Paikgacha thana Golam Mohammod. They were wanted in murder cases, the OC said.

Trader killed for not paying toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Small trader Abul Kalam of Nabinagar village under Chuadanga sadar thana, abducted from his house Saturday evening, was chopped and gunned down in Khalparh area of Jhenaidah town on the same night for not naving on the same night for not paying tolll, police said. The body was recovered by

police on Sunday from the spot

STAR National Desk Idle environment Five people were killed and at least 37 injured in bus accidents in office in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The divisional environment office set up in Sylhet seven months ago is yet to start functioning properly due to lack of required manpower and basic facilities

Besides required manpower, it lacks a laboratory, office equipment, transport and other facilities, sources at the office said.

November 16 last year at a rented floor at the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI)

Flood hits 10 unions of Nilphamari

Boy drowns, 300 families affected

OUR CORRESPONDENT.

Water level in the Teesta river crossed the danger mark at Teesta Barrage point at Dalia on Monday, bursting its bank and flooding 10 unions of the district.

A minor boy drowned and at least 300 families have left their homes for safer places with their cattle and belongings.

Onrush of water from the upstream and torrential rain trigaered the floods. It is learnt that the unusual rise in

water level is due to onrush of water from upstream as India has opened all the sluice gates of 'Gagaldoba Barrage' at the beginning of the

rainv season. Onrush of water had raised the water level close to red mark the previous day, and Monday's fourhour long rain triggered the flood,

inundating 10 unions of three upazilas. The affected unions are East Chatnai. West Chatnai. Tepakharibari, Khalisa Chapani, Tharsinha, Dauabari, Sholmari,

Kaimari, Baish Pukur and Nohali

Hundreds of hectares of Aman seed beds and Boro paddy fields have gone under water.

A large number of villagers, including women and children, have been passing their days without food and safe water. Scarcity of medicines and fodder is also prevailing in the area.

The affected people demanded immediate supply of relief materials from the district administration.

An official at Teesta Barrage Project said the barrage will be under threat if heavy rain continues.



PHOTO: STAR Disaster from illegal hill cutting looms... Two children stand at the foot of Chashma hill in Chittagong city where a landslide injured two people on Sunday night. Rains may cause more landslides, but the authorities are not taking any action against hill cutting

Fishy food procurement

MT and the list sought 5,147 MT

allotments against the 168 suppli-

handed down to officials at a meet-

ing on May 14 by the district BNP

organising secretary after it was

okayed by a party lawmaker, who is

also advisor to the district procure-

ment committee. The May 14

meeting was held as the commit-

Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

being treated te hospital, police said.

escape. A case was recorded with

Faridpur said at least 20 people

were injured when a Khulna bound

bus from Dhaka fell into a ditch

Shibrampur, 10 Kilometers from the

According to police, the bus--

Diganta Paribahanrolled into the ditch

entered the house of one Azizul Haq

at Gorura village in Daulatpur

upazila Saturday night and took

away Tk 50 lakh in cash and valu-

Azizul's son Jahidul, a shopkeeper

Later they demanded Tk one lakh

Mirpur and Daulatpur thanas but

for his release, police said.

they are yet to be rescued.

While fleeing, they kidnapped

Cases have been filed with

while overtaking a rickshaw van.

Another BSS report from

. Motihar police.

district town

The seven-page list was

ers, other sources claimed.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

"I can not say the rice is of low quality but some stone chips are mixed with those".

So said a food department official about the rice procured so far after a delayed start due to internal squabbles in ruling BNP over selecting the suppliers from among party men. The IRRI-Boro procurement in

the district started on May 14 instead of April 20, as the ruling party delayed in preparing a list of 168 suppliers in the four upazilas, the food department official said seeking anonymity. The procurement target is 5,325

tee's May 8 meeting was not "favourable" to the ruling party, the sources claimed. Even after the go-ahead, food officials were not hassle-free. The district food controller (DCF) was harassed twice last month for declining to issue

WASCs (weight quality stock certificates) to the suppliers, rais-A newly married housewife was ing questions on quality, the tortured to death by her husband at sources claimed.

When contacted, DCF Md Bodruddoza however said there is no irregularity in the ongoing rice procurement drive

Asked about the alleged harassment, he requested this correspondent not to ask any more question.

The BNP leaders however tled, of which Tk 15,000 was paid denied their involvement in the during the marriage and Tk 5,000 food grains supply and expressed was paid later. ignorance about any wrongdoing in the procurement drive

After a few months, Haroon and members of his family put pressure on Peyari Begum to bring more Tk 10,000 from her poor mother.

Kishamat village under the Sadar

Police and local people said

Peyari Begum, 20, daughter of late

Abdul Bari of Topadhan village, was

married to Haroon, 26, of a village in

A dowry of Tk 20,000 was set-

the same upazila about a year back.

upazila recently

Pevari protested and refused to go to her poor mother for money police said quoting local people.

So regular torture on her started. On Tuesday, Haroon severely tortured her. She died at night. Haroon hanged the body with a tree and told neighbours hat she com-

mitted suicide But the neighbours did not believe it. They caught him while he was trying to escape and handed him over to the Kotwali police, witnesses said.

Investigation is going on, police said

Students of Geography and Environment Department at Government Ananda Mohan College brought out a silent procession in the town on Monday protesting the alleged killing of Aysha Akhtar Taslima, a preliminary student of the department.

The processionists paraded the thoroughfares of the town. Earlier, the students also formed

a human chain on the campus. Dr Md Azizur Rahman, principal of the college, its vice-principal Prof Md. Abdul Mannan and teachers of the college took part in the human

ment of the killers. They also held a rally in front of the DC's office. Student leaders Mahbub Jahan Shaheen, Arefin Mahamud Papul Lutfur Rahman Rubel, Rasel Chowdhury, Abu Sayeed Farhan,

Anuradha Das Shyama and Emrose Khaleed Hira addressed a rally. Taslima succumbed to burn injuries on June 12 at the Dhaka

Taslima's in-laws set fire to her body at her husband's house in the district town on May 15. They lodged a

murder case. Tk 21cr budget for RHDC

financial year

twenty lakh till June.

Council as revenue, he said.

The amount is Tk six crore less

Of the current fiscal's budget,

than the budget for the current

the RHDC spent only Tk nine crore

and six lakh including a government

allocation of Tk eight crore and

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Rangamati Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) has announced a proposed budget of Tk 20.9 crore for fiscal 2003-4

RHDC Chairman Maniklal Dewan announced the budget at a press conference at his office on Monday.

Of the amount, Tk 20 crore is expected as government allocation and Tk 90 lakh will be earned by the

Bayezid thana in the city have been protest at AM College living without power supply since Friday. Power supply to this area under Later the students submitted a PDB Jalalabad grid No. 16 was memorandum to the Deputy snapped following a transformer Commissioner demanding punish-

blast. But no initiative was taken in the last five days to restore the power supply despite repeated requests by the residents

Contacted, an official at the PDB Jalalabad Sub-station said that the transformer burst because of a huge number of illegal connections.

However, the repair work could not be done as heavy rain continues Medical College Hospital after a for the last few days, he added. month long fight for life. Taslima's family alleged that

Fugitive arrested after 15 years OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A fugitive convicted of killing JSD leader and freedom fighter Haripada Roy was arrested from Tupamari Bazar under Sadar Thana on Monday 15 years after the mur der

Local people caught Mokbul Hossain and handed over him to Sadar Thana police. On September 1, 1988, the ther

In the proposed budget, the highest priority has been given to the education sector as in previous

District and Sessions Judge Ali Asgar Khan sentenced Mokbul Hossain, Bashir, Soleman and Sirajuddin to life imprisonment. But all of them were absconding

except Sirajuddin.

Our correspondent reported from Comilla that three persons were killed and 10 injured when a bus collided head-on with a truck at Kotbari on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway Saturday night. Selim Reza, 40, and Montaz Mia,

Monday

43, son of Tuku Mia of Araiora village under Comilla Sadar upazila. died on the spot while an unidentified person died on way to hospital. The office was started on The bus was coming to Dhaka from Chittagong

A BSS report from Rajshahi said two persons were killed and five

Imam tomorrow **CU CORRESPONDENT** Bakhrabad village and Alauddin, 35 The ninth death anniversary of son of Alim Uddin of Mashkatadighi Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam will village. Masud died on the spot and Alauddin succumbed to injuries at

Death

anniversary

of Jahanara

be observed in Chittagong tomor-A discussion, recitation session They were among the five who were taking tea at a stall. The rest are and cultural function will be held on the Central Shaheed Minar pre Police seized the bus but its mises at 3.00pm on the day. driver and helper managed to

Different cultural organisations, including Prama and Udichi, will perform

Social scientist Dr Anupam Sen, Resident Editor of Prothom Alo Abul Momen and former president of CUJ Md Idris will take part in the discus sion.

Pirates kidnap

Student 'murder' sparks Wife 'killed' for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur OUR CORRESPONDENT. Mymensingh

building

It was set up as the highest number of gas and oil related establishments are located in the Sylhet division, a hilly and earth quake prone area.

Its activities include monitoring the environmental in drilling zones and the impact of brick kilns, testing drinking and surface water, ensuring environment friendly atmosphere in industrial units, stopping use of hydraulic horns and emission of black smoke by vehicles, stopping use of polythene bag and hill cutting and to create awareness about environment.

The number of sanctioned staff is nine but only three are working at the office with a Deputy Director (DD) as its head. The two others are a Lower Division Assistant and a Peon.

The posts of Assistant Director, Senior Chemist, Junior Chemist, Upper Division Assistant and Laboratory Assistant are vacant from the very beginning.

The only Inspector, who was posted here two months ago, had been sent abroad for training. An Office Assistant was posted as a cashier but he has applied for transfer as he has no experience in the work, the sources said.

The DD, who is to look after work in all the four districts in the division, has no vehicle.

3 commit suicide in two days **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

Three persons committed suicide in

the district in two days, police said. Zakir Hossain, 18, son of Ishak Dwean of Bot Bottail village under the Sadar upazila committed suicide by taking poison over family feud on Tuesday night.

Zohura Khtun, 55, wife of one Abdul Jalil and mother of nine ended her life by taking poison on Wednesday at Fulbaria village in Mirpur upazila following an altercation with her husband. She was taken to local hospital where she

On the same day, Ahsma Khtun, 25, mother of one child, committed suicide by taking poison at Talbaria village in the same upazila. The reason for her suicide could not be known, police said.

injured when a bus rammed into a cluster of roadside shops at Katakhali under Motihar police station in the city. The dead were identified as

Comilla, Rajshahi and Faidpur on

Masud, 28, son of Samad of

Five killed in road

Faridpur, Comilla

mishaps in Rajshahi,

2 kidnapped in Kushtia for ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia ransom In another incident, a gang

Two young men were kidnapped for ransom in two days in the district in separate incidents Police said, a gang of 10 armed

men stormed into the house of one Nabir Uddin at Tribari village in Mirpur upazila Friday night. They tied the inmates on gun point, looted Tk 30,000 and valuables and kidnapped his son Kamal Uddin, a

college student, for Tk one lakh

The injured person were given first aid. It is alleged that immediately after the accident, some local miscreants looted belongings of the passengers on the plea of rescuing

three near Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Armed pirates looted about Tk three lakh in cash and valuables and abducted three persons for Tk three lakh ransom from a village near the Sundarbans Saturdav night.

Police said, a gang of about 20 came in a trawler and swooped on houses of Ahad Gazi, Naimuddin Gazi. Noor Box Moral and Shahidul Islam in Chandimukho village in Shyamnagar upazila.

After the looting, they kidnapped on gun point Abdur Rashid, son of Ahad Gazi; Abdul Majid, son of Naimuddin and Zahangier Hossain. son of Zafar Gazi for Tk three lakh ransom

The pirates asked for payment of the ransom within a week.

Acute accommodation crisis at RU halls 12,000 huddle in 7063-seat dormitories

its capacity of 839.

authorities have arranged stay of

73 students at the common room.

Students call the room 'Kolorob'

the 300-seat Sher-e-Bangla Hall.

Hall

for studies.

ables.

A RU CORRESPONDENT halls, students alleged.

Accommodation crisis has become acute in Rajshahi University (RU) hostels, causing sufferings to students

The university has 14 residential halls with 7063 seats but over 12,000 students now stay there. And 12,000 more students stay at messes or other places outside the

campus, not getting seat in hostels. A four-seated room now accommodates at least six students, some of them sleeping on floors. Students have to stay even at guestrooms and TV rooms, they said.

The worst sufferers are the female students. The four halls for female students accommodate over 5500 students against their capacity of 2558

Added to miseries, cadres of the 420-seat Amir Ali Hall, 1000 at the 380-seat Motihar Hall, 1300 at Islami Chhatra Shibir have "capthe 430-seat Shah Mokhdum Hall tured" a good number of seats at the

1275 at the 836-seat Habibur Rahman Hall, 2530 at the 592-seat At Munnujan Hall, the largest one for female students on the campus, Suhrawardi Hall, 1401 at the 584at least 1200 students live against seat Mother Box Hall and 1375 students at the 268-seat Zia Hall.

Some 1100 female students stay According to sources, the in the 720-seat Rokeya Hall, 1000 at University Grant Commission the 525-seat Taposhi Rabeya Hall allocated Tk 1.5 crore last year for and 800 at the 464-seat Khaleda Zia building another hostel for female students At Taposhi Rabeya hall, the

But its construction could not be started as the RU authorities used the money for payment of teachers' salary due to shortfall in budget this year, said a highly placed source.

(noisy) because it is not congenial Work on the under-construction According to the annual report of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur the university, the authorities pro-Rahman Hall is also going on slowly vided seats to 1237 male students at The authorities expect the hall to be ready next year though it was There are 1200 male students at scheduled to be completed last the 300-seat Abdul Latif Hall, 911 at year.