

## SNAPS

**Murderer gets life in Ctg**

**BSS, Chittagong**  
A court here on Saturday sentenced one person to life imprisonment convicting him in a murder case.

Additional District Judge Mohammad Mohsin Mollah delivered the judgement convicting Abu Siddique, son of late Haji Mokbul Ahmed of South Sarenga village under Anowara upazila for murdering Azizur Rahman of the same village.

The convict stabbed two persons Azizur Rahman and Abul Basher at a place near Gahira under Anowara upazila on July 28, 2000. Later, Azizur Rahman, son of late Gura Mia died. The court examined nine prosecution witnesses before delivering the judgement.

**508 nabbed from 6 southern dists**

**BSS, Barisal**  
Police of six southern districts under Barisal district, 68 from Patuakhali, 164 from Bhola, 66 from Pirojpur, 61 from Barguna and 42 from Jhalakathi district.

Police sources said, out of the total, 117 persons were arrested from Barisal district, 68 from Patuakhali, 164 from Bhola, 66 from Pirojpur, 61 from Barguna and 42 from Jhalakathi district.

None was arrested for illegal possession of firearms.

A case was lodged with Kotwali thana police.

**Training for journalists**

**BSS, KHULNA**  
A four-day training workshop for working journalists under the auspices of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) began at Khulna Press Club here on Sunday.

Twenty-five working journalists are taking part in the workshop. The workshop will conclude on September 3.

# Field workers, members lay siege to NGO in Rajshahi

## Human chain demanding return of money

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Hundreds of field workers and members of a Rajshahi based credit oriented non-governmental organisation (NGO) named Samaj Unnayan Karma Shangstha (SUKS) on Saturday demonstrated at its Sagorpara head office and in Shahebbazar area of the city protesting alleged irregularities in the organisation.

SUKS, allegedly deprived its members of their deposited money giving them cheques which were dishonoured. As a result its field workers earned people's wrath.

The demonstrators assembled in front of SUKS office from morning and laid a siege forcing its officials to leave the office.

The demonstrators captured the office and kept the office manager Ansar Ali confined into his room for nearly an hour till police took control of the office and recovered Ali.

The demonstrators formed a

human chain at Shaheb Bazar Zero point, but police dispersed them charging baton on a few of them.

Established in 1993, the NGO has been collecting members through 70 branch offices in Dinajpur, Bogra, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Natore, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi districts.

The demonstrating members alleged that the NGO promised them attractive benefits without approval of Bangladesh Bank. But they are not getting their money back after fulfillment of their terms of deposit.

A few of them alleged that they were given cheques of their profits against their deposits, but the cheques were dishonoured.

The NGO has reportedly withdrawn some of its branches in Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi districts after members of the branches assaulted field workers for irregularities.

Field workers and members were beaten up at the head office recently while they went to the office demanding their deposited cash back, it was alleged.

Several field workers of the NGO submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Rajshahi raising seven complaints of irregularities, corruption and fund misappropriation against the NGO in November last year.

Nazrul Islam, a field worker of the NGO in Motihar thana area told reporters that he returned the members' money by selling his domestic animals.

Latif Ali of Kharkhari area also sold his dwelling house in the city for saving skin from the members' wrath.

But Rehana and Heera Parvin of Chapainawabganj have fled home to save themselves from members' wrath as they have nothing to sell.

Abdul Mannan, a field worker of Shibganj upazila collected money from 40 members since he joined

the NGO two years ago and now he has become a defaulter of Tk 70,000 as the NGO failed to pay back money to the members.

Masud Rana of Taherpur in Puthia upazila told that he deposited Tk 450 every month after he became a member of the NGO in June, 2000. On completion of his term the NGO authority gave him a cheque which was dishonoured.

The condition of Mojibur Rahman of Shibganj, Saleha Yasmin, Abdus Salam of Charghat upazila and Nazmun Nahar in Laxmipur area of the city are similar.

On March 29, the Bagha upazila branch manager of the NGO Alamgir Hossain filed a case with the chief metropolitan magistrate of Rajshahi against the NGO authority for misappropriating Tk 13.65 lakh of public money.

Boalia thana police are investigating the case, where SUKS chairman SAQM Harun, managing director Nazrul Islam and director (accounts) Naimuddin were

# Sudden rise in Teesta water damages dam

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

Because of sudden rise in water level in the Teesta, an embankment on Dinajpur main canal under Teesta Irrigation Project at Doani fully damaged on August 28.

As a result, water of the irrigation canal falls in the Charalkata river, a tributary of the Teesta. Two villages surrounding the damaged point at Kathali village under Jaldhaka upazila have been flooded.

Thousands of hectares of land in seven upazilas under Nilphamari and Dinajpur districts have also been affected.

Sources in Nilphamari Water Development Board (WDB) and local people informed The Daily Star that due to heavy pressure of water on the embankment of Dinajpur main canal, it started damaging from Thursday.

Regarding the cause of damage, the WDB and local people gave different versions. The WDB authori-

ties in Nilphamari informed that the damage was caused due to digging of the embankment by farmers to make a drain for irrigation of lands beside the canal while local people alleged that due to lack of proper maintenance, the incident happened.

However, the WDB has called tender to repair the damaged embankment.

## Biennial confce in Nilphamari after 13 years

# BNP call to obliterate memory of JP

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

The biennial conference of the Nilphamari municipality unit of BNP was held after 13 years at local paorasabha auditorium on Friday. Participated by a large number of delegates and councilors, Aziz Ahamed and Zahurul Alam were elected president and general secretary for the next two years.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon was the chief guest and BNP district committee president also a nephew of Prime Minister Shahrin Islam Tuhin was special guest.

In his speech Ehsanul Haq Milon

cited different steps taken by the present government for promotion of female education throughout the country. He regretted that if the steps would have been taken just the after the independence then each and every family of the country would produce an educated mother today. He also stressed on unity and announced that unity of nationalist and patriotic forces could foil any anti-state conspiracy.

In his address, Shahrin Islam Tuhin chalked out different programmes to strengthen the organisation. He asked the party workers to wipe out Jatiya Party from

the minds of people. He categorically said that Awami League would never be able to come back to power within 20 years. He also asked the party workers to engage themselves in development works.

Prior to the conference, 2,000 leaders and workers of Awami League and Jatiya Party of Jaldhaka upazila joined BNP and vowed to work to strengthen the nationalist force.

In the afternoon in a separate conference Rezaul Karim Raja and Julfikar Ali Vutto were elected president and secretary of the Domar municipality unit of BNP.



PHOTO: STAR

A human chain was formed in Nilphamari town on Friday to mark closure of one year of Ekushey television (ETV). ETV fans of all ages took part in the human chain.

# Another mate-operated launch runs aground, disaster averted

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

A launch, MV Suravi-6 plying along the river Meghna from Dhaka to Barisal ran aground near North Gachhua under Muladi upazila in the early hours of Sunday.

Thousands of passengers on board were saved luckily from another serious accident.

The accident occurred when the

launch was being operated by a Sukani (mate) while its Master was sleeping.

According to passengers, at about 1-30 am the launch hit an unmarked shoal and ran aground.

Another launch Dipraj failed to pullout Suravi. Finally, another launch of Dhaka-Mirganj route pulled out Suravi during high tide at late night after two and a half hours'

effort.

At the time of the accident Suravi tilted and leaned dangerously. Panic stricken passengers were saved luckily. They continued their journey sleeplessly.

The launch reached Barisal 4 hours late at 7 AM Sunday morning at Barisal station without further incident.