

JMB cadre held in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Police arrested an alleged JMB cadre from Sukh Nagar in Gaibandha Sadar upazila Friday night.

Sultan Mahmud, son of Enayet Ali of Pepulia Char village was arrested following confessions of 26 alleged militants arrested on March 1, police said.

Sultan was produced before a Magistrate court, which placed him on five days remand.

The 26 militants, all members of Allar Dal, an offshoot of JMB, were arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) when they were holding a secret meeting at a house at Utter Dhanghara village in the Sadar Upazila. They are in custody.

KU to observe Katka tragedy day tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Students and teachers of Khulna University (KU) will observe Katka Tragedy day tomorrow.

Nine students of Architecture department at KU and two of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) were washed away by strong current during a trip to Katka sea beach near the Sundarbans on March 13 in 2004.

The nine KU students were Shuvo, Kushol, Baki, Apu, Toha, Rupa, Russel, Nipun and Kauser. All of them were final year students.

The programmes include mourning procession, Milad Mahfil and discussion meeting.

A monument has been built on the KU campus in memory of the students.

Out for a decisive battle

Tomorrow's Domar municipal polls draw two rival party bigwigs into hectic campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

It is an election in a small municipality. But it has turned into a fight between an incumbent lawmaker and a former legislator.

Domar upazila town in Nilphamari wore a festive look with colourful posters all around, processions and miking for the chairman candidates Awami League-backed Al Azhar Hossain and local BNP leader Mosabber Hossain Manu.

But their main campaigners are AL Central Publicity Secretary and cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor MP and the prime minister's nephew and former BNP lawmaker Shahrin Islam Tuhin as their fate in Domar in the next parliamentary election depends on outcome of the municipal polls to be held tomorrow.

Noor and Tuhin are moving door to door, leading processions and addressing small rallies, appealing



Asaduzzaman Noor

for vote for their men.

Over 100 election camps to campaign for both the candidates have been set up in the municipality with only 8,238 voters.

Tomorrow's election will be the second since Domar was declared a municipality in 2001.

The municipal election has



Shahrin Islam Tuhin

created a great enthusiasm among the people, drawing into race 34 candidates for the nine posts of commissioner and 13 for three seats reserved for women.

Nilphamari-2 parliamentary constituency comprises Domar municipality and Dimla upazila. Domar is the home town of Tuhin and he is lobbying

hard for a four-party alliance ticket from the constituency in the next general election, party sources said. But his political fate will depend on the success of Manu and other BNP-backed candidates, the sources said.

On the other hand, Asaduzzaman Noor, being the incumbent lawmaker, is trying to retain his power base in Domar.

To throw weight behind Manu, Tuhin is taking help of State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon and some other party MPs in the campaign while AL stalwart and former agriculture minister Motia Chowdhury and some other party leaders are already in the hustings for Noor's men.

Talking to this correspondent, some voters said there could be a neck to neck fight in the election.



With lighted candles in hand, men line up after a rally at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park in Satkhira town on Friday to say 'no' to violence and discrimination against women.

Men lend their voice to women's rights

Rally says 'no' to violence and discrimination

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

For the first time in Satkhira, men came up to campaign against violence against women and to protect their rights.

Several hundred males including youths attended a rally at the Shaheed Minar at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park in the town on Friday and lined up with candles in hand to say 'no' to violence against women and social discrimination. The participants included teachers, journalists, government officials, lawyers and the elite of the town.

The programme was organised by Satkhira Unnayan Network, a combine of ten NGOs, in observance of the

International Women's Day.

Chaired by Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar, the rally was addressed by, among others, journalist Prof. Abu Ahmed, Nurul Huda, Tazibur Rahman, Farida Akhtar Banu, Dilip Kumar Dev and Prof. Pabitra Mohon Das.

They called for launching social movement to eliminate violence against women and ensure equal rights in different professions.

As repression on women and violation of their rights start from family, these should be stopped there first, they said and urged male counterparts to change their attitude.

Women never enjoy equal rights in marriage, jobs and owning family

property under the Muslim Family Code. This should be changed, they said.

Domestic violence should not be considered a personal or a family matter. Women should be considered as equal partners in decision-making at family level, they said.

Women's empowerment is a prerequisite to protect their rights they said and urged NGOs and government agencies to take steps for their education and employment.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day was 'Women in Decision Making: Meeting Challenges, Creating Change'.

MURDER OF 2 RU TEACHERS

Arrest of Shibir leader Salehi demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (Ruta) yesterday formed a human chain in front of the university main gate demanding arrest and punishment to killers of Prof S Taher Ahmed and Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Several hundred teachers, students and officials joined the human chain, carrying placards and banners.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), students wing of opposition Awami League, also took out a procession and held a rally in front of

Central Library.

Speakers at the rally alleged that Jamaat-Shibir leaders are trying to protect Prof Taher's alleged killer Salehi.

They threatened tougher agitation if Salehi is not arrested and punished.

Earlier, on Friday evening, Rajshahi Professionals' Coordinating Council also brought out a procession in the city and held a rally at Shaheb Bazar zero point demanding arrest and trial of Shibir leader Salehi for his alleged involvement in the murder of Prof Taher.

Violence against women increases in Kushtia

275 incidents last year against 195 in 2004: Suicides rise to 82 from 20

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Violence against women and incidents of suicide are increasing in Kushtia.

According to data available from police record and different NGOs, at least 275 incidents of violence on women took place in the district last year against 195 in 2004 and 182 in 2003.

At least 82 women committed suicide last year, up from 20 in the previous year and 14 in 2003. Most of the suicide victims were housewife and the main reason behind the incidents was torture by husbands and their families for dowry, according to studies by some NGOs.

"Most of the suicide incidents are due to violence," said the executive director of Mukti Nari-O-Shishu Unnayan Sangstha.

Husbands were responsible for violence in most of the cases. Other

family members were also found involved in torture for dowry. In a few cases, poverty was behind torture by husbands, NGO sources said.

According to sources at Kushtia General Hospital, at least 45 women were treated after they took poison to commit suicide last year and 22 died in the hospital.

In most of the incidents, no case was filed by victims' relatives. Police recorded those as 'unnatural deaths', the sources said.

Police said murder cases were filed with the six police stations in only 35 of the 82 incidents of suicide last year. Eighteen murder cases were filed in 2004 and 19 in 2003.

Charge sheet is yet to be submitted in any of the 35 murder cases filed last year, they said.

Only two cases were investigated and charge sheet submitted in 18 cases in 2004, police said.

4x3

3x2

3x2

7x3

3x2

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10x3