Body of abducted Gazipur trader

The body of a businessman of

The dead was identified as

Mohsin Alam ,37. He was abducted on May 17 from Mohammadpur in

Some unknown miscreants had been demanding Tk 10 lakh over cellphone since his abduction as

ransom for his release, family

a case on May 27 with the Mohammadpur Police Station in

this connection. Latif said " One Mursheda

Begum, an acquaintance of Mohsin, helped the abductors to

Mohsin's father Abdul Latif filed

Gazipur was exhumed from a grave at Sonargoan in Narayanganj yesterday 38 days after his abduc-

exhumed

members said.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Bangladesh, Nepal keen to expand trade

Envoy meets PM

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Nepal expressed interest in taking necessary initiative and steps to increase trade and commerce between the two South

The views were expressed when the outgoing Ambassador of Nepal, Bhagirath Basnet, made a farewell call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the PMO vesterday. The two sides discussed ways of increasing two-way trade and business.

The Ambassador, who will join as Foreign Secretary in his country as his next assignment, apprised the PM that Bangladeshi goods have

demand to the people of Nepal.
"All the Bangladeshi goods were sold during the two Bangladesh single-country trade

At least eight people were killed and

88 others injured in separate road accidents in Kishoreganj.

Manikganj, Chittagong, Khagrachhari and Jhenidah yester-

Kishoreganj reports: Three people were killed and five others critically

injured in a road accident on Bhairab-Kishoreganj highway at

Konapara in Bajitpur upazila under

Abdul Hamid, 75, Abdur Rashid, 40,

and Liton, 5, of village Konapara at

Bajitpur upazila. Five others were rushed to Bajitpur Medical College

dent occurred when a Kishoreganj-

bound bus coming from Chittagong

collided head-on with a truck com-

ing from the opposite direction at

about 5:00pm leaving one bus passenger dead on the spot and

succumbed to their injuries on the

Of the critically injured, two

seven others injured critically.

Police and locals said the acci-

un critical condition.

The dead were identified as

the district yesterday.

Our correspondent from

fairs in Nepal in the recent times," he said.

Expressing gratitude for extending all-out cooperation by her government during discharge of his duties here, Bhagirath said bilateral trade and people-to-people rela-tions between Bangladesh and Nepal have increased during his

He, however, said many things will have to be done for further enhancing business and invest-

Praising him as a successful ambassador, Khaleda thanked the envoy for his effort to enhance bilateral and business relations and congratulated him on his new assignment and wished him suc-

Presents a Conference of Good Governance

The American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh

The envoy once again congratu-

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mir Nasir Hossain addresses a seminar

titled 'Role of Citizens in Addressing Corruption in Bangladesh: Creating Demand' at a city hotel yesterday organ-

ised by the Embassy of the United States of America in association with the American Chamber of Commerce in

Bangladesh. Sitting from left are Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Dr Kamal Uddin Siddqui, The Daily

Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) member Professor M Moniruzzaman

8 killed, 88 hurt in road mishaps

people were killed and 40 injured as

highway and fell into a ditch in

Police said a Barisal-bound bus

from Dhaka fell into a roadside ditch

as the driver lost control over the

steering at 11:00am. A seven-year-

old girl, Tuni, died on the spot while

an unidentified woman succumbed

to her injuries on the way to hospi-

Seven of the injured were rushed to Sadar Hospital while about a dozen others sent to Dhaka Medical

The bodies were sent to Sadar

hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our staff correspondent from

Chittagong says: Two pedestrians

were run over by a speeding truck

and bus in separate road accidents

Islam, 30, a pedestrian, when he was

crossing the busy Badamtali Road in

Agrabad at around 9.30am. He

breathed his last at around 11.45am

at the Chittagong Medical College

60, another pedestrian, was run over

Meanwhile, Sanowara Begum,

Hospital (CMCH), policesaid.

A speeding truck ran over Nazrul

Muljan area yesterday.

College Hospital.

in the city yesterday

bus swerved off Dhaka-Aricha

Miah and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iftekhar Zaman.

lated Khaleda on her election as current Saarc Chairperson and hoped under her leadership socioeconomic condition and living standard of people of this region

He appreciated Bangladesh's socio-economic progress, including poverty alleviation, health, and

education, particularly women education, underherleadership. He conveyed greetings of the King and the Prime Minister of Nepal to Khaleda. The PM also

reciprocated through the envoy. The diplomat recalled that relations between Nepal and Bangladesh "took a positive turn" during the tenure of late President Ziaur Rahman and the people of Nepal have a high respect for the late President Zia.

the way to the CMCH.

district yesterday.

known immediately.

driver of a Khagrachhari-bound

truck lost his control over the steer-ing and hit a hill leaving its helper

dead on the spot, local people said.

The dead was identified as

Faruq, 25, from Barisal. The identi-

ties of the injured could not be

least 40 people were injured in a

road accident in Jhenaidah yester-

occurred when driver of a Jhenidah-

bound bus lost control over the

Jhenidah Hospital, while eight were

and it had mechanical flaws," police

local police station in this connec-

steering and rammed a tree.

admitted to Kaliganj Hospital.

BDNEWS from Jhenidah adds: At

Police said, the accident

Of the injured, 31 were sent to

"The bus crumbled into pieces

A case has been filed with the

acclaimed. Before publishing the quarterly magazine, he also edited and pub-lished a children's magazine

Born on February 19 in 1931, Mizanur Rahman was a student of the first batch of Dhaka Art College

He is survived by his wife, three

from Kolkata last night. The body will be kept at his residence at House # 94, Road # 9/A, Dhanmondi from 11:00am to 12:00 noon today. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at a mosque at Road # 12/A, Dhanmondi after Zohr prayers. Later, he will be buried at

3 JMB men held a day after their release on bail

She succumbed to her injuries on Our Correspondent from Khagrachhari adds: One person was killed and three others injured in a road accident at Guimara in the 17 serial blast case. The accident occurred when

The JMB activists -- Abdul Mannan, Abdul Jalil and Ziaur Rahman -- were re-arrested in connection with a looting and bomb blast incident at Ullapara Grameen Bank on January 9, 2005, police sources said.

home following their release on bail from district jail at Kandapara. After the blast on August 17, 2005, police filed a case accusing 16

Sunny and Abdul Awal. Police submitted a charge sheet to the court against four of them after an investigation, while the

due to lack of evidence. The charge-sheeted accused are Sarwar Jahan Sharif of Chapainawabganj, Abdur Rashid

Mamun alias Faruk of Gaibandha, Bashir alias Jewel of Natore and Tarikul Islam Habil of Sirajganj. The three and Tarikul Islam

Appeal for help

A father has sought financial assis-

tance for the treatment of his two

daughters suffering from thalas-

saemia for the last 15 years, says a

Ima, are being treated at Dhaka

Medical College and Hospital

(DMCH) and Dhaka Shishu

Hospital. They have to have blood

transfusion every month and three

bags of blood are needed for each

Meantime, one girl has under-

gone an operation. The other girl

also needs an operation immedi-

ately, but their poor father

Nasiruddin could no longer afford

savings on his daughters and now

he is unemployed because he had

He has already spent all his

The two sisters, Fatema and

press release.

of them.

their treatment.

Habil were arrested earlier for their suspected link with the August 17 blast.

Monajatuddin's anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monajatuddin.

met a tragic end as he fell from a ferry in Jamuna river on December

29 in 1995. At that time, he was working at the daily Jankantha. Moved by hardships of the distressed people, Munajatuddin left the government job and joined

journalism in 1962 with a motto to depict the true stories of the underprivileged people

as its northern correspondent.

After the independence, he published and edited a daily named the daily 'Rangpur' from

In 1976, he joined the daily Sangbad.

He has worked at the daily

journalism.

TRAFFICKING OBSERVED

about drug abuse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

terday with a call to build a society free of drug abuse.

different socio-cultural organisations arranged elaborate programmes to raise awareness about drug abuse, which is destroying the future of thousands of people, including children, across the coun-

roundtable, discussion, street drama and human chain.

by only enforcing laws, they said, adding that raising awareness is a must to combat it.

They also called on guardians,

Narcotics Control (DNC), the discussion was addressed by State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar, Additional Secretary of the ministry Mohammad Muhsin and DNC Director (administration) Shahadat Hossain

No countries, whether develacross the world, Babar said.

the peace and social stability and creating obstacles to fostering the

to obtain money for drugs, he

Quoting from a report of World Health Organisation (WHO), Babar said 2.1 crore adolescents and youths in the world are addicted to eroin and cocaine.

made concerted efforts to prevent drugabuse.

Work is underway to upgrade the 40-bed Central Recovery Centre for the Drug Addicts to a 250-bed Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre, he added.

He called on the private rehabilitation centres to reduce the charges for the treatment of drug

According to the DNC, a total of 1,938 cases were filed against 2,112 people between July 2004 and May 2006 on charge of possessing illicit

During the period, the DNC also seized 12.8 kg of heroin, 64,879 bottles and 65.4 litres of phensidyl and around 633 kg of cannabis.



Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mizanur Rahman, editor of the 'Mizanur Rahmaner Troimasik Patrika', a literary magazine, passed away at a clinic in Kolkata in the early hours of yesterday.

He along with his wife went to Kolkata for his treatment on June 16. Author of 'Kamalalaya Kolkata' and 'Krishna Sholoi', Mizanur Rahman had been editing his magazine since 1983. The special issues of the magazine featuring birds, trees and environment, mathematics, poet Shamsur

'Jhankar' and an entertainment magazine 'Rupchhaya'.

Rahman and Vidyasagar are widely

(presently Fine Arts Institute).

sons, one daughter and two grand-

His body was brought to Dhaka Banani Graveyard.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Detective Branch (DB) of Police yesterday arrested three members of the banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) a day after they were released on bail in an August

The arrestees were on their way

people, including Ataur Rahman

rest were acquitted of the charge

titled 'Counter-trafficking interventions in prevention, protection and prosecution for victims of trafficking in persons in Bangladesh' in

Funded by the USAID Bangladesh, the project covering 18 districts will run till September 2008.

today Suppl charge sheets likely today

Today is the second death anniver-

sary of slain journalist Humayun Kabir Balu. On the occasion, Khulna Press

Humayun Kabir Balu, editor of the Dainik Janmabhumi, was killed in bomb attack on June 27 in 2004 in front of his office-cum-residence in Khulna city.

under Section 302 of BPC --- were filed with Khulna Police Station on the night of June 27 in this connection. The cases were transferred to

order on July 27 the same year for further investigation into the cases as Discussion chargesheets submitted earlier by the then OC Mosharaf Hossain did not contain statements of prosecution witnesses. He submitted the

Four of 10 chargesheeted accused were killed in encounters with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and crossfire with police. Two accused, including PBCP Janajuddho founder Dada Tapan, are still at large while four others are in Khulna district jail.

Present investigation officer Inspector Abdul Hamid is likely to OC of Khulna Police Station.

'25pc still extreme poor'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extreme poverty still affects approximately 25 percent of the population despite good progress in poverty alleviation, said the speakers at a press conference.

They said one out of every two Bangladeshis earns less than one dollara day. The press conference was held

following a workshop on 'Extreme Poverty' organised jointly by Brac and Department for International Development (DFID). The speakers said the absolute

number of poor people remained constant since the 1970s. Moreover, rising level of inequality threatens to exclude the poorest of the population from the benefits

of national economic growth, they

They said to attain the Millennium Development Goal (MDG), Bangladesh must reduce the proportion of its people whose income is less than one dollar from 49.6 percent to 29.4 percent by 2015 and the proportion of people in

Speakers tell dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 7.9 million children in

Bangladesh are engaged in at least 13 worst types of child labour, said

speakers at a dialogue quoting an

ILO study yesterday.

The dialogue titled 'Civil Society

and Working Children' was organ-

ised by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar

Forum (BSAF) and Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) at

Speaking as keynote speaker, Wahida Banu, director (Programme) of Aporajeyo-Bangladesh, pointed out that

children are engaged in risky and

Biam auditorium in the city.

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a meeting yesterday called for combined efforts of all

stakeholders and awareness raising

campaign to effectively combat

better coordination among NGOs

and government agencies to

for Migration (IOM) and the home

ministry organised the meeting on

Initiatives taken to combat traffick-

ing in persons' at the National Press

jointly initiated a three-year project

The IOM and the home ministry

Club in the city.

September 2005.

They also stressed the need for

The International Organisation

human trafficking in the country.

While speaking at the press conference Country Representative of DFID David Wood said extreme poverty is not acceptable and the extreme poor need special assis-

To address the ultra poor group Brac in association with DFID has started a programme titled Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction Targeting the Ultra Poor' (CFPR-TUP) in 2002, as the rate of extreme poor is alarming in rural areas and spreading in urban areas

The objectives of the CFPR-TUP programme is to assist the ultra poor population graduate from ultra poverty level and to assist them getting access to the mainstream development programme, the

"It is also aimed to assist the hardcore poor through asset transfer and development support for skill, health and confidence," said Brac Executive Director Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury.

The extreme poor especially the women receive training and pro-

7.9 m engaged in 13 worst

hazardous sectors such as prostitu-

tion, trafficking, camel jockeys, chemical and tobacco industries,

glass factories, tanneries, salt

factories, transport sector, carrying

drugs and firearms, welding and

250 non-governmental organisa-tions working on child labour in

Bangladesh, she stressed the need for coordination among them and

6.16 per cent of the total volume in

Combined efforts a must to

The speakers called on the gov-

ernment, law enforcement agen-

cies, local government representa-

tives, media, NGO officials, lawyers

and religious leaders to come for-

ward and work together to curb

sures should be considered as a

development agenda, said Rezaul Haque, DG-Ed team leader of

This is an important issue for

'We have to work together to

donor agencies as they give priority

to it while providing development

make the people aware of it (traf-

ficking) as it is a crime against

humanity and it has also an impact

inspector general (AIG), said the

the trafficking issue and there is a

police monitoring cell which is dealing with the problem with the

government is sincere in tackling

Mozammel Khan, additional

on society, economy and politics."

Anti-human trafficking mea-

Child labour in the country is

Director of CAMPE Syeda

Rasheda K Chowdhury under- spoke on the occasion.

also with the government.

the world, she said.

curb human trafficking

human trafficking.

USAID Bangladesh.

assistances, he added

Noting that there are more than

types of child labour

garbage picking.

programme that already reached one lakh ultra poor women and their households in 15 poorest

districts in the country, he added. He said the programme has been extended to its second phase from 2007-2011 following the success of

the first phase targeting three lakh households in six more districts. Lack of resource is the main constraint in poverty reduction and as such multiplicity of programmes

and approaches as well as community support are needed for poverty lleviation, he added. Brac Director for Research and valuation Department Imran Matin and Livelihoods and Environment Advisor of DFID

Yolande Wright were also present at the press conference. Earlier, the workshop attended by more than 80 participants recommended community mobilisation to create an enabling environment and educating the ultra poor members regarding their future plan and changing their mindset at

scored the need for community-

based approach to reduce child

The working children also expressed their toiling experiences

chaired the programme while

Secretary in charge of Ministry of

Labour and Employment Syed Shujauddin Ahmed, Deputy Director of CAMPE Tasneem Taher,

Chairperson of Human Rights-

First The Child A H M Mainuddin

Ahmed, Kazi Abdur Razzak o

UCEP and Dr Shamsul Alam of

Ganotantrik Majdur Party also

support from the home ministry.

Trafficking in persons, particu-

larly women and children, is also

tarnishing the image of the country

he said and urged all, including the

political leaders and well-off sections

of society, to come forward to curb it

divided into three groups -- preven

drama, school, media and commu-

nity campaign is part of prevention

activities while protection activities

include providing medical and legal

aids and developing entrepreneur-

The prosecution activities are

aimed at building the capacity of

police officers, prosecutors and

lawyers so that trafficking cases can

chief raised issues including 're-

cruitment of ruling party cadres as

the election officers, opposition

political parties' reform proposal to

ensure free and fair election and law

ial skills of the victims

tion, protection and prosecution.

Mizanur Rahman, team leader of

Advocate Rokhsana Khondkar

labour in Bangladesh.

at the dialogue.

carry out the plan. The culprits killed my son though I paid them Tk 3 lakh on May 22 through a parcel to an address given by the kidnappers," he said. Acting on information of Mursheda arrested on May 24, Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) identified Mohsin's grave at Hariya in Sonargaon on Saturday

Doa mahfil for Birsreshtho Matiur tomorrow

A doa mahfil for the salvation of the departed soul of Birsreshtho Matiur Rahman will be held at his youngest daughter's home after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Matiur's daughter Tuhin Matiur Haider has requested friends, family members and well-wishers to attend the mahfil at House-514. Road-9 at Baridhara in the city and pray for salvation of the departed

The remains of Birsreshtho Matiur Rahman was flown to Dhaka from Pakistan on June 24 night and laid to rest at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur on June 25.

3 shot in city

Three people were shot by miscreants in separate incidents within the span of seven hours in the capital on

his back by a group of muggers while he was returning home in a rick-shaw at Shajahanpur area in the

to flee the scene after being chased

by the locals.

counter-trafficking programme of Shabbir Tower at around 5:30pm and sprayed bullets on Vikram Das,

> to DMCH. Police suspect unknown extor-tionists, who had been threatening

> Sutrapur and shot Jasimuddin, He received a bullet in the right

be dealt with effectively. Representatives of NGOs and law enforcement officials were present at the meeting.

Two children drown in Ctg

and drowned within minutes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons committed suicide in two separate incidents in the city

In one incident, police recovered the body of a schoolboy from the city's Khilgaon area in the early hours of yesterday.

of class five of Khilgaon Govt High School.

Family and police sources said Mehdi hanged himself from the ceiling with a rope inside an under-construction flat of their house at

family members immediately took him to a local hospital at around 12:30am where the doctors declared him dead.

sidering him as a mental patient

filed an unnatural case (UD) in this

in the city yesterday.
Police said Moinu committed

suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan with a rope.

way to hospital. Unb from Manikganj adds: Two

Today is the 61st birth anniversary of renowned and veteran journalist On this day in 1945, he was born

in Rangpur district. Life of this celebrated journalist

He joined the daily Azad in 1966

Rangpurregion.

Sangbad for two decades. He received several prestigious awards, including Ekushey Padak (posthumous) and Philips Award for his contribution in the field of

by a bus while she was crossing the road at Muradpur under Panchlaish INT'L DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, ILLICIT

Call to raise awareness

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed in the country yes-

The theme of this year's campaign is 'Children and drugs' and the slogan is 'Drugs are not child's Government and nongovernment organisations and

The programmes included rally,

At a discussion held at the National Museum auditorium, the speakers said illicit drug trafficking is no longer an internal problem, rather it is an international prob-

Drug abuse cannot be stopped

teachers and close relatives of children and youths to be more alert to prevent drug abuse. Organised by the Department of

oped or developing, are safe from the network spread by drug mafia He said drug abuse is destroying

talents of the young generation. The drug addicts are also creating law and order situation as they often get involved in various crimes such as theft, robbery and mugging

He said the government has

to give up his job for giving more time to his ailing daughters. Nasiruddin has appealed to generous people and organisations to extend a helping hand to save his daughters.

Contributions can be sent to Nazrana Fatema, Savings Account No.-20-9252-7, Agrani Bank, Board Bazar Branch, Gazipur-1704. Phone: 9291605 (on request).

Journo Balu's 2nd death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Club has taken programmes, including discussion, milad mahfil and laying of wreaths at his portrait.

Two separate cases --- one under Explosive Substances Act and another

Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal on July Abdus Samad, judge of Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal, passed an

charge sheets on April 25 last year.

submit supplementary charge sheets to court today. Hamid is now

UNEAD team meets B Chy During the discussion, the BDB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of the United Nations Election Affairs Division (UNEAD) made a courtesy call to Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Dr AOM Badruddoza Chowdhury at the latter's Baridhara office in the city

UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Renata Lok Dessallien and Md Najibur Rahman, a UNDP officer, accompanied the twomember team comprising Senior Political Officer Kendra Collins and member Peter Eicher.

and order situation in the country'. BDB Vice President Maj Gen yesterday, says a press release. (Retd) M A Halim, Joint Secretary General Feroj M Hasan and Prof Nurul Amin Bepary, Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury and Joint Organising Secretary Wajed Ali Chowdhury were also present

during the meeting.

Parshid to promote human rights and women rights in the costal region'. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 9:30am.

Dialogue

Bangladesh Awami League will hold a discussion to mark its 57th founding anniversary with Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers. Time: 3:00pm.

South Asia Partnership Bangladesh will hold a dialogue on 'Role of Union

Nari Uddug Kendra organises a seminar on 'Reform of electoral

Seminar

constituencies to increase women's political empowerment'. Venue: Seminar room of the Department of Public Health Engineering. Time: Roundtable

Somaj Onushilon Kendra will hold a

workers. Venue: National Press Club. Discussion

roundtable on the agitation of garment

Economic Reporters' Forum in association with the National Board of

Revenue (NBR) will hold a discussion on the state of revenue collection. Venue: NBR conference room, Time: Inauguration

The inauguration of sapling distribution

programme will be held. Venue:

Krishibid Institution, Time: 9:30am.

Seminar Department of Chemi and Food

Engineering, Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, will hold a seminar on 'Role of chemi and food engineers in industrial promotion and food processing'. Venue: Department conference room.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

soul of the war hero.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Ripon, a trader, was shot in

early hours. The muggers however managed

Ripon was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition. At Purana Paltan, a gang of four stormed into the office of a construction firm on the third floor of

IOM, said the project activities are a sweeper of the farm Hit in the right leg, he was rushed Raising awareness through

> the owners of the firm for a toll of Tk 2000000, are behind the incident. In the other incident, a group of hoodlums entered an electronics shop at Lalmohan Saha Street in

leg and was admitted to the DMCH.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Iwo children drowned in a pond in

the port city yesterday.
Police said Yarun Nesa, 11,
daughter of Iskander Ali of Ward No-3 under Baizid Bostami Police Station, and Sadiya Begum, 12, daughter of Nilufer Begum of the same area, went to a nearby pond for taking bath at around 12.30pm

2 commit suicide

yesterday.

The dead was identified as Khondokar Md Mehdi, 12, a student

east Rampura. Seeing Mehdi hanging, the

His family said he has been missing since Sunday evening. Police said Mehdi's family con-

Meanwhile, Demra police recovered another body of a youth named Moinuddin Moinu, 24, from the deceased's house in south latrabari