

## News snaps

### Housewife strangled to death

From A Correspondent

BOGRA, May 21: A housewife was strangled to death at Karmapura Sadar thana on Monday night. Police sources said that Sukur Ali strangled his 16-year-old wife Fatema on way to his father-in-law's house. After the incident he went to his father-in-law's house and informed that Fatema had been abducted by some miscreants. His clothes were also taken away, he said to them. On suspicion, the in-laws went to the spot and found the dead body lying there. His cloths were recovered from there which was kept under the ground. Fatema married to Sukur Ali seven months ago. A murder case has been filed with Sadar thana. Sukur Ali has been arrested in this connection.

### Life-term for 3 killers

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, May 21: Three persons were convicted and sentenced to life-term imprisonment and fined Taka 2,000 each, in default to suffer six months more Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) on charge of a murder.

Lalla Salma Banu, Assistant District and Sessions Judge awarded the punishment to Abdus Sattar, Abdul Majid and Alim Uddin of village Birampur in Trishal thana recently. The three convicts killed Abdul Motaleb of the same village over a land dispute on August 22, 1998.

### Woman trafficker gets jail term

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 21: One woman trafficker has been convicted and sentenced to suffer 14-year imprisonment on charge of trafficking a girl to India on May 5. The court also fined Taka 25,000 in default to suffer RI for three years more.

The convict is Rehena Khatun Rani, 21, daughter of Kawas Ali of village Uchhepara in Kaliganj thana. The prosecution story in brief is that Muslimia Khatun, 18, wife of Abdul Mazid of village Kakshali in Kaliganj thana while returning to her husband's house from her father's house, a trafficker named Rehena, allured her of providing a job at Satkhira. She took her to Nariketla crossing in Satkhira town and sold her to a gang of traffickers. Later on, police rescued her from the clutch of traffickers.

### Two outlaws arrested

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, May 21: Two alleged members of outlawed 'Sromi Mukti Andolon' was arrested along with a shunter gun and these rounds of bullets on May 12 morning from Kalinagar bazar area in Sreepur thana.

Police said, they were arrested with the help of local people. Zakir, 28, son of Ashrafuli of Durgapur in Sreepur thana and Alom, 26, son of Israfil Mollah of the same village were trying to flee after snatching 10 thousand and 7 hundred taka from Tahmina Begum, an NGO worker from Kudia village of the same thana.

### Crackdown on criminals

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 21: Vigorous anti-crime drive has been started in all the four thanas of the district.

The thanas are Chuadanga sadar, Alandanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. Police and BDR jointly conducted the drive. So far about 250 people have been arrested from different places of four thanas on various charges. The government opened 15 new police camps in the district to control and resist crime.

### Clash over collecting honey

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, May 21: At least 20 persons were injured, 12 of them seriously in a clash over collecting honey from a hive on May 15.

According to local and hospital sources, an uncle and his nephew of village Lashkarkandi in Kotwali thana locked in a clash with lethal weapons for collecting honey from a big hive on a tree belonging to them. The clash lasted for about two hours injuring 20 persons. Of the critically injured, 11 were admitted to Faridpur General Hospital and one to Faridpur Medical College hospital.

### Red Crescent Day observed

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 21: World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day was observed here in a befitting manner on May 8.

Elaborate programme was chalked out in observance of the day. The programme included hoisting of National flag and Red Crescent flag in the premises of Red Crescent Society, Kushtia Unit. A discussion meeting was organised with Chowdhury Mursheed Alam Madhu, chairman in charge of the unit in chair. Mohammad Hossain Mohan, Member of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society managing board spoke on the occasion as the chief guest. The discussion meeting was also addressed, among others, by Md Asgar Ali, Kh Zulfikar Ali Arzoo, A S M Akteruzzaman Masum, Shamsur Rahman Babu, Zillur Rahim, Alami Ara Jui, Sajeda Hossain, Dr Shahana Akhtar, Selim Ahmed, Ariful Huq, Abdul Karim, Ashraful Islam and Enamul Huq.

### Welding worker electrocuted

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 21: A electric worker of a welding shop in the town was electrocuted here on May 14.

The victim was identified as Aslam Hossain, 25, son of Abul Hossain of village Kacharipara in the town. Witnesses said he received an electric shock while working and died on way to hospital.

### Dacoity at Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, May 21: A dacoity was committed at the local branch office of BRAC RDP office at Sakua in sadar thana on May 12 night.

Dacoits entered into the office of BRAC by breaking open the grill and the door. They looted valuable including gold ornaments worth Taka 67,000 after fastening the officials on gun point. ASP (sadar) Muklaser Rahman and OC Habibul Haque of the local thana visited the spot.

### Good harvest of IRRI-Boro

NETRAKONA, May 21: Despite prolonged drought like situation, the farmers of 10 thanas of the district are expecting a good harvest of IRRI-Boro crops in the current season, reports UNB.

Officials said of these thanas, bumper production is expected in Mohanganj, Khaliazi, Madan, Arpara, Kalmakanda and Barhatta thanas. Harvesting of the paddy has already been started and going on in full swing in the district where the farmers claimed to have harvested 100 mounds of BR-29 variety of paddy from one acre of land. A total of 165,000 hectares of land were brought under cultivation of IRRI-Boro crops in 10 thanas of the district this season.

### Uplift work progressing

COMILLA, May 21: Works on 65 development schemes in the district at a cost of Tk 2.35 crore are going on in full swing, reports UNB.

District Council is implementing the works under its Annual Development Programme, officials said. The schemes included construction, reconstruction and renovation of bridges, culverts, roads and dukbanglow. Of the total schemes, works on 13 have already been executed and the rest will be completed by this year.

### Fever, chicken pox in Naogaon

NAOGAON, May 21: Fever and chicken pox, which broke in an epidemic form, affected over 1,000 people during the last fortnight in the district, reports UNB.

Women and children were the main victims, said the hospital sources. Physicians said prevailing sultry weather and other natural disasters were responsible for the outbreak of the disease.

### Coastal people in panic

PIROJPUR, May 21: People in the coastal area have been passing their days in panic on the advent of 'kalboishakhi' season as the area lacks adequate shelter homes, reports UNB.

The seasonal豪雨 claim huge lives and property every year from 17,000 square km coastal belt. Over 25 big and moderate cyclones and tidal surges that hit the area during the last 40 years claimed about 10 lakh lives, officials sources said. A survey, conducted by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), last year, identified a total of 12,049 square km of land in 49 thanas of the coastal districts as 'high-risk zone.'

## National

Citizens cry for civic amenities

# Politics keeps N'ganj Pourasabha polls pending for 11 years

From Ehsanul Haque



Front view of Narayanganj Pourasabha

— Star photo

ers including two former ward commissioners named Jahangir Alam and Rafiqul Islam in early 1993.

Unfortunately, the long overdue election of Narayanganj Pourasabha had been withheld for another three years since the removal of legal complications.

On expiry of the elected municipal body's term in 1988, the authorities announced the schedule of the election for municipalities throughout the country early that year.

However, the election of Narayanganj Pourasabha had to be postponed in 1989 following a writ with the High Court challenging a fresh demarcation (restructuring 12 unions into eight wards).

The suspension of the election continued due to injunction by the court until the court dismissed the writ following prayers by all the four petitioners

The sudden postponement of polls came at a time when all preparations for elections were in progress. Then a full-swing electioneering was going on after long nine years.

A Division Bench of the High Court issued the rule on September 1, 1996. The rule was issued upon a writ petition filed by Raisul Haque and four others challenging the legality of Narayanganj Pourasabha election scheduled for September 29.

According to the certificate issued by advocate Sudhangsu Shekhar Haldar, the counsellor for the petitioners, the court issued orders upon the authorities to show cause as to why the notification for the election should not be declared to have been passed and issued without any lawful authority and with no legal effect.

The court also ordered for stay of operation of the notification of election for eight weeks, but still now the decision of the court is pending with the court for decision.

Informed sources said, the petitioners, who challenged the legality of September 29, 1996 election, were residents of the east bank of the Shitalakkha in Bandar thana. The four unions of the Bandar thana were separated from Narayanganj Pourasabha.

The petitioners, Raisul Haque, district unit chief of Jatiya Party and others in his party Ahsanullah, Mobarak Hossain, Habibullah and Shiahabuddin, all from Bandar thana, wanted merger of their four unions of Narayanganj Pourasabha.

(three for each ward).

But the election which was scheduled for September 29 was stayed once again by the High Court on a fresh writ petition by a group of five persons.

ers headed by a chairman.

The last election of the Pourasabha was held on February 11, 1984. The elections which were due in 1988, 1992 and 1999 could not be held because of legal complications.

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