

## National

# Accommodation crisis in Chapainawabganj jail

Construction of Gopalganj prison left half done

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 10: Like many other prisons of the country, the district jail has been grappled with numerous problems, including accommodation crisis and lack of medical services, reports UNB.

According to sources, over 500 prisoners have been forced to live in eight wards against the capacity of 153 prisoners. Their plights worsen further during sultry weather, as there is no fans in their wards. Even the foods they are provided with everyday are not worthy of eating.

There are allegations that jail wardens demand bribe from the visitors when they want to see their imprisoned relatives. Allegations are also there that the jail wardens supply drug to a section of prisoners.

A prisoner who was released recently said most of the prisoners who take drug are now sick and there is no arrangement for their medical treatment. Fever, cough and intesti-

nal ailments are common among the jail inmates, he said. There are only one doctor and a pharmacist in the jail.

A high-powered inspection committee was formed to inspect the overall condition of the prison. But the committee hardly visits the jail.

When contracted, the jail authorities said there were 542 prisoners in the jail as of May 31.

Another report from Gopalganj says: Construction of a full fledged district jail undertaken in November 1998 at a cost of Tk 7.41 crore has been left half done by the contractor in the absence of part payment of the bill.

Considering the miseries of the overcrowded sub-jail, the government had directed the Public Works Department to construct a full fledged district jail for which 7.5 acres of land were acquired.

The work included boundary wall, two-storyed barrack for the convicted prisoners, two-

storied barrack for under trial prisoners, female prisoners' ward, adolescent ward, hospital and living quarters for the jail super and staff.

Although the revised estimate of the work raised the project cost to Tk 16.25 crore, the government has so far released Tk 3.77 crore to PWD.

With sharp increase in crimes the number of prisoners rose to more than 400 in the sub-jail which has an accommodation capacity of 76 prisoners.

The sub-jail is beset with many problems, including inadequate supply of food, paucity of water, sanitation and health care.

When contacted the jailer admitted inadequacy of basic needs in the sub-jail. He said problem of medical treatment is acute and in most cases they are to shift the ailing prisoners to Sadar Hospital.

He stressed the need for early completion of the district jail to overcome the problems.

## Slaughter ground of liberation period remains uncared

BARISAL, June 10: The slaughter ground of the historic liberation period under Nalchity Upazilla of Jhalakathi district has been lying uncared for about 30 years after the freedom of this country till writing of this report, reports BSS.

The people have been horrified with the remembrance of the slaughtering here till now. At least nine freedom fighters and many inhabitants were killed at this slaughtering place of this Upazilla on May 11, 1971.

On May 11, 1971 the Officer-in-Charge of Nalchity Thana invited the local eminent persons to come to thana headquarters at night for an emergency meeting. According to po-

lice constables, the meeting was arranged to discuss about an incident of looting the oil depot and the food godown of Jhalakathi before March 25. A total of 128 prominent figures were present in the meeting. But without discussing the proposed agenda, an anti-liberation Peace Committee was formed there.

Those persons who disagreed with the Peace Committee were gunned down later.

The 12 invitees, Krishna Mohun Nandi, Shyama Kanta Roy, Dasharath Kunda, Bhashan Chandra Podder, Sukumar Chandra Banik, Kali-pada Banik, Haripada Roy, Dasharath Kunda, Bhashan Chandra Banarjee, Khitish

Chandra Dey, Atul Chandra Kurhi and Nepal Chandra Kurhi were listed, among others, in the mass killing programme on the day. The listed persons were forced to stay two days in Thana hazat and later they were taken to Tamakpatty Khal areas of the town at dead of night on May 13. There the then Pakistani police forces gunned down these persons.

Among them, Khitish Chandra Dey, Kalipada Banik and Ani Chandra Dey luckily escaped death on that day. Khitish Chandra Dey got bullet injury while the other two had been unhurt.

The place, identified as slaughter ground, has remained uncared till now.

## Steps sought to check travelling on rooftops of vehicles

From Akhteruzzaman



**No lesson from the worst-ever road accident:** This is a common scene on Bogra-Dhaka Road. The recent worst-ever road accident at Konabari in Sirajganj district failed to teach a good lesson to both the drivers and passengers alike. At least this picture testifies this where (left) some fishermen are seen travelling all the way to Dhaka on board a loaded BRTC truck to sell their merchandise and (right) another overloaded bus plying near the local police outpost.

— Star photo

tal could not be traced. After the accident they were not available at the hospital. As a result so many people died without treatment. The news was published in various newspapers, radio, television and through ATN channel, but till filing of this report none of them were punished.

The local political leaders under and the suffering people demanded immediate legal action against the culprits for negligence of duty. They also demanded steps to check the fitness of vehicles regularly and checking the trend of travelling on rooftop of plying vehicles immediately.

**Jack-fruit a source of energy:** Jack-fruit, our national fruit is a source of vitamin. It grows in plenty in Rangamati area. Many families maintain their livelihood by cultivation of this fruit. This season a bumper production of jack-fruit has been achieved here due to favourable climate. Photo shows the fruit is being loaded in a truck for supplying to various parts of the country after meeting local demands. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Entrance of Bhoj Rajbari Bouddha Bihar discovered

COMILLA, June 10: The Archaeological Department has discovered the entrance of the Buddhist Temple of "Bhoj Rajbari" in the historical archaeological site of the Lalmai-Mainamati region here after a few years of digging, sources at the department said, reports BSS.

Experts of the Archaeological Department also recovered four architectural relics of the

Body to protect interests of hawkers

From Our Correspondent

MOULIVI BAZAR, June 10: A new organisation to protect the interest and solve the problems of the hawkers of newspapers was formed here recently.

The organisation was formed at a meeting of hawkers held at the office of newspaper agent Shankar Ranjan Tarat.

Presided over by Shankar Ranjan Tarat, the meeting was attended by a large number of hawkers where a 37-member committee of Moulivibazar Newspaper Hawkers' Association was formed. Office-bearers of the committee are — President: Samiran Deb Sadhu, Vice-President: Md Asik Miah, General Secretary: Md Rasik Miah, Assistant Secretary: Bakul Khan, Publicity Secretary: Sanju Malakar, Organising Secretary: Md Numan Ahmed, Treasurer: Abdus Shahid, members: Md Zakin Hussain, Parimal Chandra Das, Kunja Lal Baidya, Shukur Ali, Md Basit Miah, Shajan Miah, Rinku Kapali, Miladur Rahma, Jhinur Miah, Hussain Miah, Runum Miah, Jotish Chandra Pal, Liton Miah, Liton Acharya, Rahim Miah, Badrul Miah, Chinni Miah, Sunu Miah, Abul Hossain, Musa Miah, Shafique Miah, Jakir Hussain, Deen Islam, Rofiqul Islam, Nunu Chandra, Kajal Deb, Dilip Chakraverty, Dijesh Deb, Sukratha Deb and Mijanur Rahaman Kashem.

Shankar Ranjan Tarat was selected the Advisor of the committee.

## 312 new colleges fail to get affiliation

RAJSHAHI, June 10: The fate of students and teachers of 312 new colleges in 16 northern districts has become uncertain as Rajshahi Education Board rejected their applications to give affiliation, reports UNB.

Board sources said a total of 322 new colleges of the northern districts applied for the affiliation but the authorities after scrutiny found only 10 colleges eligible for affiliation.

Of the 10 colleges six will be given affiliation in Naogaon, two in Rangpur and two in Dinajpur districts. Secretary of the Board Prof Nurul Alam told the news agency that the chairman of the Board has already started inspection of these ten colleges.

According to an Education Minister circular of 1997, the board can give affiliation to a college in an area with minimum 75,000 population.

But the mushroom growth of colleges by a section of master degree holders has created various problems in the areas as future of the employees and students of these colleges has be-

come uncertain.

The college authorities deposited non-refundable Tk 5,000 along with the application of each college and the Board so far received Tk 16.10 lakh from them.

The founders of these colleges became upset with the decision of the Board as they received lakhs of taka as donation from the job-seeking teachers.

RB Chairman Prof Khailur Rahman said at present there are some 778 government and non-government colleges under the board.

**Honours Part III examinees stage agitation in Barisal**

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 10: Examinees of Honours Part III of BM College under National University brought out procession here on Monday demanding rescheduling of examination, which is scheduled to begin on July 29.

People from far and near visit the mazar to perform urs.

Despite controversies raging round the mazar of Hazrat Shah Jamal (R), it is established beyond any shadow of doubt that he once came and stayed in Jamalpur. It is also a non-controversial fact that he hailed from Yemen and came to this part of the world via Multan to preach Islam.

Before Shah Jamal (R), another great saint Hazrat Shah Kamal (R) came to Jamalpur for preaching Islam. He also came from Multan in 1503 and set up his camp at Durmut on the bank of the River Brahmaputra.

A group of saints numbering 360 arrived in the northern Bengal. Hazrat Shah Jamal (R) was the leader of the group. There are differences of opinion on the exact location of the mazar (grave) of Hazrat Shah Jamal (R). Alhaj Golam Mohammed in the book "Gono Ettibitta" expressed doubt about the existence of Shah Jamal (R) in Jamalpur in this part of the world.

Although a foreigner, Hazrat Shah Jamal (R) is still remembered with reverence and gratitude in the minds of the people here who named the district after him.

## Jamalpur named after Hazrat Shah Jamal (R)

From Muhammad Ali

JAMALPUR, June 10: Many saints and Aulias or saints who came to Jamalpur from different parts of the world to propagate their respective religions and emancipate people from injustice and exploitation of the ruthless tyrants who used to rule this country during those days.

Hazrat Shah Jamal (R) was one of those Aulias or saints who came to Jamalpur from Yemen in the Middle East. About 900 years ago, this place was called "Sannasiganj" situated on the banks of the Old Brahmaputra. The entire area was a forest bereft of human habitation. Much later the area was renamed as "Jamalpur" after the famous saint, Hazrat Shah Jamal (R).

Long after people started inhabiting in this area where members of the Hindu community built a Shiva temple. It was a time between 1100-1203 AD when Sen of ancient Gaur of Bengal had sovereignty over the entire area. The locality in and around Jamalpur town where the temple was situated is popularly known as Shiva-para. Sub-

sequently the temple turned into a monastery. Monks from the remote corners of the country used to visit this temple. Hence the temple and the area came to be known as "Sannasiganj."

During the rule of the great Mughal Emperor Akbar (1552-1605) Hazrat Shah Jamal (R) of Sylhet came to this area for preaching Islam. Enchanted by the scenic beauty of the area, Hazrat Shah Jamal (R) set up his camp on the bank of the old Brahmaputra.

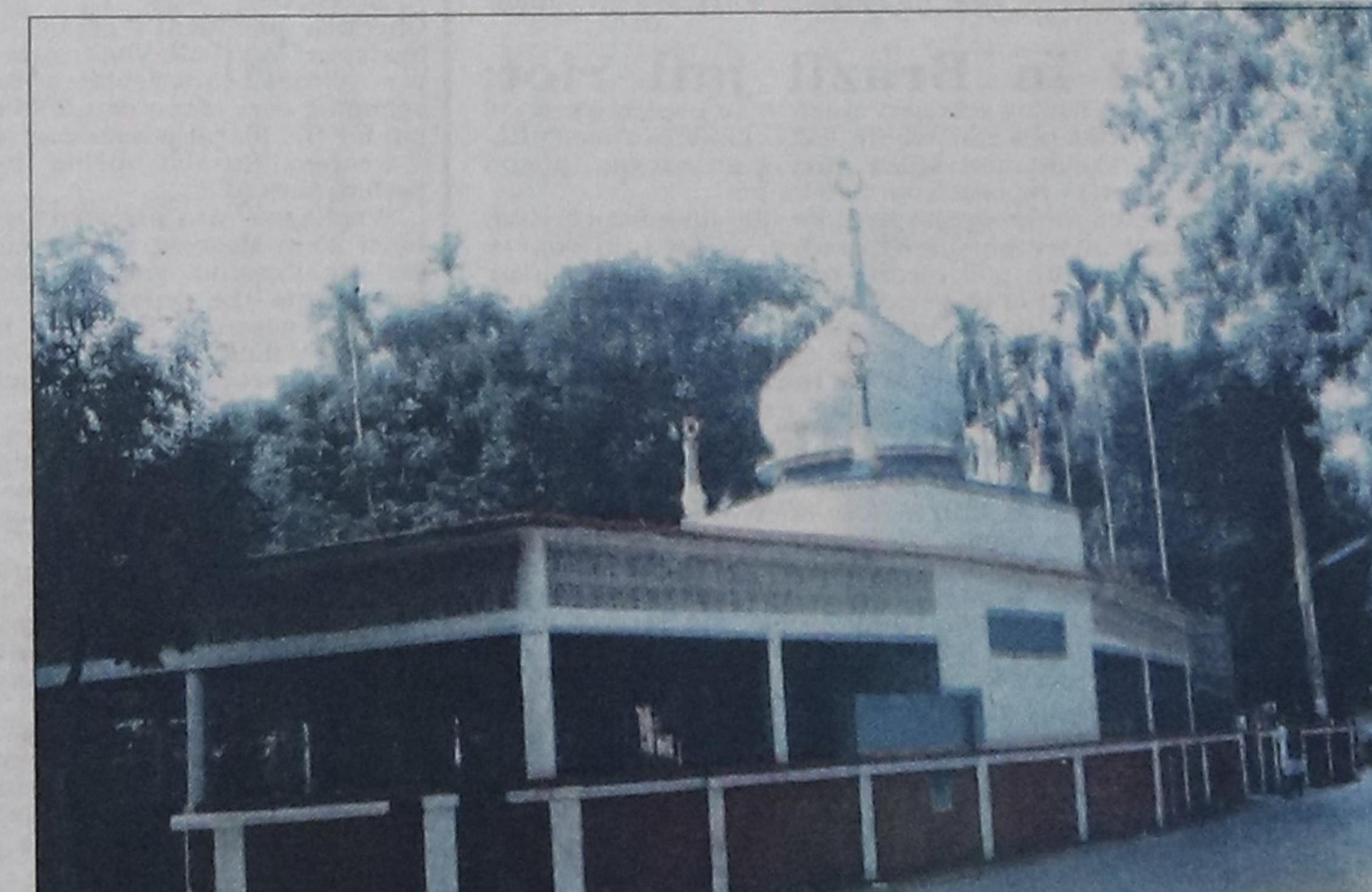
It is said that Hazrat Shah Jamal (R) was a close kin of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) of Sylhet.

A group of saints numbering 360 arrived in the northern Bengal. Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) was the leader of the group.

There are differences of opinion on the exact location of the mazar (grave) of Hazrat Shah Jamal (R). Alhaj Golam

Mohammed in the book "Gono Ettibitta" expressed doubt about the existence of Shah Jamal (R) in Jamalpur in this part of the world.

Although a foreigner, Hazrat Shah Jamal (R) is still remembered with reverence and gratitude in the minds of the people here who named the district after him.



Hazrat Shah Jamal (R), the great saint came to this part of the world to preach Islam from Yemen via Multan. He was laid to rest on the bank of the Old Brahmaputra in Jamalpur town which was named after him.

— Star photo

## News snaps

### Snatcher gets 2-yr RI

HABIGANJ, June 10: A court here on Tuesday convicted a man and sentenced him to two years' Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) under Public Safety Act (PSA) in a snatching case, reports UNB.

The convict — Kausar of Barabahula village in Sadar upazila — was also fined Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer six months more in jail. According to prosecution, Kausar snatched Tk 5,300 from a van driver Mohammad Salek from in front of Syed Nasiruddin Academy here on April 1 this year. After examining records and witnesses, Judge Abdur Rashid handed down the judgement.

### Heroin seized

RAJBARI, June 10: Police seized 500 grams of heroin and caught a man from Daulatdia launch ghat here on Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off, police searched the body of Israfil Morol and recovered the drug from beneath his undergarment. Israfil was travelling by a Dhaka-bound bus from Benapole. Estimated cost of the heroin is Tk 40 lakh, police said.

### Hemp smuggler convicted

KURIGRAM, June 10: The special judge of a tribunal here on Sunday sentenced a man to six years' imprisonment for smuggling hemp, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convict Phool Miah of Soulami village in Roumari upazila with Tk 6,000, in default, to suffer one year RI more. Police arrested Phool Miah along with 6 kilograms of hemp on October 8, 1997. The court found him guilty after examining reports and witnesses.

### Installation of regulator

PANCHAGARH, June 10: Installation work of a regulator by LGED in the River Versha under Tetulia upazila is in full swing, reports BSS.

Official sources said, installation of six-vent regulator is being done for irrigation. The work will cost Taka 51.90 lakh. With completion of the work, 700 hectares of land will be brought under irrigation during dry season.

### Arms, valuables looted

BOGRA, June 10: Armed robbers burst into a house at Pirobadia village in Shibganj upazila and looted arms and valuables on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said the bandits stormed into the house of Nurul Master at about 1 am, beat up his family members and looted valuables from the house after tying them up with ropes. They also took away a licensed gun and six rounds of bullet.

### Cash, valuables looted

NAOGAON, June 10: A band of bandits entered into a BRAC office at Bujipur in Manda upazila and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk two lakh on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the robbers broke into the office and looted a motorcycle, VCP sets and cash tying up its night guard with rope. They also beat up seven BRAC employees, including two women. They fled away before the police reached the spot.

### Abductor jailed

PATUAKHALI, June 10: A youth was condemned to 10 years' imprisonment by a court here recently in an abduction case, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convict, Shahabuddin of village Chhotchar Kajol in Galachipa upazila, Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer six years more RI. According to prosecution, Shahabuddin aided by his associates abducted his co-villager Afroza, a madrasa student, on Jan 31, 1998 as she refused to comply with his illicit proposal. Police rescued the girl after her brother filed a case with a Magistrate court. After examining the witnesses, the Judge found the youth guilty of kidnapping and pronounced the verdict recently.

### Housewife beaten to death

BAGERHAT, June 10: A pregnant housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Mongla town here recently as she tried to prevent him from gambling, reports UNB.

Police said, the husband, Kuddus during a quarrel with his wife Hafiza alias Rokeya, 19, beat her to death and dumped the body into a pond pouring poison on her mouth. According to villagers, Kuddus had tortured Rokeya, mother of one child, several times earlier while she tried to prevent him from gambling. Autopsy of the body was performed at Sadar Hospital here.

### Man gets life term