

## NEWS SNAPS

**One killed, 30 injured in storm**

UNB, Comilla

A man was killed and 30 others were injured when a violent storm lashed Comilla on Friday night.

Some 200 kutcha houses, trees, crops were damaged extensively in the storm. The worst affected upazilas are Daudkandi, Chandina, Muradnagar and Barura. Mortuza Ali of Daudkandi upazila died on the spot as a tin of a house fell on him during the storm. His wife Rani, 35, was also injured seriously in the incident. She was rushed to the local hospital.

**Housewife allegedly commits suicide**

UNB, Gopalganj

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Basbaria village in Muksudpur upazila in Gopalganj on Friday.

Police said Marzina, 28, wife of Ayub Ali Munshi, took her life over a family feud. The body was sent hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

**Saudi govt donates two ambulances**

UNB, Jhalakathi

Government has provided two new ambulances for Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital and Kathalia upazila Health Complex.

Civil Surgeon of Jhalakathi received the ambulances at a function on Sunday. A total of 43 ambulances have so far been provided for the hospitals and upazila health complexes across the country with the financial assistance from Saudi Government.

**Youth shot, injured by criminal**

UNB, Patuakhali

A youth was shot and injured at Titkata village in Sadar upazila in Patuakhali by a local criminal on Saturday night.

Police said criminal, Babul Sikdar called Shahidul Islam, 25, out of his house at 9pm and took him to his chamber following a previous enmity. Later he tortured him mercilessly and shot him from his pistol injuring him grievously. He was rushed to the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. A case was filed.

**'Aman' procurement drive faces setback**

UNB, Manikganj

Aman procurement drive in Manikganj ended in total failure as the price of paddy fixed by the government was lower than that of the open market.

The government had set a target to purchase 445 mts of rice and 345 mts of paddy from Manikganj through its seven purchase centres this year. But the farmers showed no interest to sell their paddy and rice to the purchasing centres as they were getting higher prices in the open market. As a result, the drive ended in total failure. The government fixed the purchase rate at Tk 12.50 for each kg of rice while rice is being sold in the open market at Tk 15-16 per kg.

**Retired cop arrested for carrying phensidyl**

UNB, Gopalganj

Police arrested a retired police constable with 20 bottles of phensidyl syrup, 10 litres of phensidyl in a plastic container and 90 corks of phensidyl bottle and 30 labels from a bus stand in Gopalganj on Thursday.

Police said they raided a passenger bus bound for Boraitali at about 10:30 am and seized contraband items from the bag of Shafiqul Islam. Shafiq brought the contraband from Jessore and was taking the contraband items to his village home at Hoglakandi in Bhanga upazila of Faridpur. A case was filed with the police.

**Five cultural activists hurt by criminals**

UNB, Joypurhat

A gang of criminals attacked the office of one of the members of Bangladesh Gram Theatre near rail station of Joypurhat town injuring five of its cultural activists on Friday night.

Kamal, Likhon, Philips, Babu and Harun were injured when the gang beat them mercilessly after attacking the office without any provocation. They also damaged the valuables of the office including a television set, one motor bike and one bicycle. Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and Bangladesh Gram Theatre condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the terrorists. A case was filed.



PHOTO: STAR

The historic 'Shaheed Sagar' at Gopalpur North Bengal Sugar Mills in Natore. Over 100 persons including Lt Azim, the then General Manager (GM) and other officers, employees, workers of the mills were brutally killed by the occupation Pakistan Army on the stairs of this 'Shaheed Sagar' on May 5 in 1971 during the liberation war of Bangladesh.

**Four lakh marooned by flood in 5 upazilas in Netrakona**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The flood situation in Netrakona further deteriorated with inundation of fresh areas. About four lakh people in five upazilas were marooned.

Water level in the Sumashowary, Kongscha, Donu and Mogra, the four major rivers were rising continuously. Besides, water from hills in the neighbouring India and heavy rainfalls during the last few days aggravated the situation.

Brishiri, Kakayazgor, Bakoljura, Chandrigor, Baromari and Gaokandia unions in Durgapur upazila and Karnai, Langura, Rongchati, Nazirpur, Pugla and Barakapon unions in Kalmakanda upazila went under water.

Moreover, most areas of Modon, Khaliajuri, Purbadhala and Mohongonj upazilas went under three feet water.

Flood water washed away standing Boro crops on 30,000 acres of land and damaged at least 1000 kutcha houses.

Road communication between

the district headquarters and Durgapur, Khaliajuri and Kalmakanda was disrupted. A good portion of Netrakona-Birishiri Road at Suknakuri was badly damaged by flood water.

State Minister from Home, State Minister for Water Resources and State Minister for Relief on May 2 and 3 distributed relief materials among the flood victims.



Mehboob Chowdhury, Director of Sales and Marketing Division, Grameen Phone Limited presents a crest to Barrister Md Aminul Haq, Minister for Post and Telecommunication during the inauguration ceremony of a digital exchange in Joypurhat recently.

**Shaheed Day observed at Gopalpur**

A CORRESPONDENT, Naogaon

Shaheed Day was observed befittingly at Gopalpur (Natore) on Sunday (May 5). On this day in 1971 Lieutenant Anwarul Azim, the then General Manager (GM) of North Bengal Sugar Mills, Gopalpur (Natore) and over 100 other workers, employees, officers of the mills were killed brutally on the stairs of a big pond in the mill premises by the then occupation Pakistan army during the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

Programmes of the day included probhat ferry (mourning procession in the morning), placing of wreath at the place of massacre, milad mahafil, Quaran khwani, discussion meeting and offering of munajat beside the pond which was later named "Shaheed Sagar."

In memory of the supreme sacrifice of Shaheed Lt Azim for the independence of Bangladesh, the railway station at Gopalpur was renamed as "Azim Nagar."

Hundreds of people of all walks of life including members of the martyred families attended the programmes.

function.

**Pneumonia claims 62 babies in Rajshahi in one year**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A total of 62 children died of pneumonia in last one year in Rajshahi city.

Ignorance and unconsciousness of parents and guardians have been identified as the main reasons behind the increasing trend of pneumonia deaths among children. According to the sources in the Health Department of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has decreased in the recent years, but infant's death from pneumonia have increased.

In the year 2000, a total of 230 infants (children of below one year of age) died. Out of the total number of deaths from pneumonia was 50. Total number of death of infants decreased to 217 in 2001. But death from pneumonia increased to 62.

The highest number of infants died of pneumonia in December. The number was 11 followed by 10 in November.

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Chief Medical Officer Dr Rezvi Sultan said, due to ignorance and unconsciousness, parents make late in treating their infants. "They do not even get proper treatment as they, at first go to quacks," he said. Low birth weight, immature birth, lack of breast feeding, malnutrition, overcrowd and unhygienic environment are the other causes that favour attack of pneumonia, he said.

**Body recovered**

UNB, Noakhali

The body of an unidentified woman was recovered from Anantapur village in Begumganj upazila in Noakhali Wednesday.

Police said the woman, aged about 30, was slaughtered by terrorists in a planned way. A case was filed.