

NEWS SNAPS

Housewife strangled 'by husband'UNB, *Benapole*

A housewife was strangled allegedly by her husband at Hogladanga village in Jhikargacha upazila on Thursday.

Police and witnesses said Abbas Ali killed his wife Sabina for dowry, and pouring poison into her mouth, Abbas tried to prove it as a suicide case. Abbas Ali remained absconding and a case was filed in this connection.

Body of woman recovered from hotel roomUNB, *Rajshahi*

The body of a woman was recovered from a hotel room in Rajshahi town Thursday.

Police said Waliul Majid along with her wife Jharna Majid, 22, of Rangpur hired the room of the hotel on April 12 to reside there for the treatment of Jharna. Waliul Majid went out of the room on Wednesday in the name of purchasing medicine, and did not return. As none opened the door of the room till Thursday, the hotel authority informed the matter to police. On information police recovered the body of the woman from the room. A case was filed.

Young man killed over land disputeUNB, *Satkhira*

A young man was killed over land-related dispute at Tushardanga village in Ashasuni upazila in Satkhira on Wednesday.

Abdul Mannan, 30, was seriously injured in an attack allegedly by his siblings Saifiqu and Idrish Ali. He died on the following day at a hospital. A case was filed.

Abductors release 3 tribal peopleUNB, *Khagrachhari*

Three tribal people were released after five days of their abduction on Friday.

Police said the criminals set free abducted Poling Chakma, Bakul Biswas Chakma and Binoy Shanker near the bus terminal at Dhiganala. The three tribal men were abducted from Girful area in Sadar upazila on May 5. Headmen of the area took the initiative for their release.

Alleged woman trafficker arrestedUNB, *Satkhira*

An alleged woman trafficker was arrested from Bhadiali border in Satkhira on Friday.

Local people caught Nurul Haque, 35, of Patuaila village in Kalaroa upazila, along with a girl, Razia Begum, 15, just before crossing the border. Nurul, a member of trans-border trafficking gang, was later handed over to police. The man was taking Razia, daughter of Abdul Kader at Brojabox village in the same upazila, to India promising to give her a job there. A case was filed with police.

Outlawed party leader arrestedUNB, *Satkhira*

A leader of an outlawed party was arrested from Kadakati Hajir Hat in Asashuni upazila on Friday.

Local people caught Mohsin, 20, regional leader of Purba Bangla Communist Party, as he came to take toll from shrimp enclosure owners. He was handed over to police. Villagers said the outlaws sent letters to 10 enclosure owners demanding toll a week ago.

Man, elder brother arrested for torturing wifeUNB, *Narayanganj*

Police arrested a man and his elder brother from Rishipara in Nitaiganj on Thursday on charge of torturing his wife for dowry.

Police said Nokul Chandra Das and other members of his family torture his wife Chandralekha Das for dowry. Nokul Chandra and his elder brother Gokul were arrested after Chandralekha filed a case.

Sylhet Municipal Corporation polls**Probable candidates start lobbying for party tickets**IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, *Sylhet*

With the announcement of holding the Sylhet Municipal Corporation (SMC) election within two months by the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) minister, probable mayoral candidates have started lobbying for party tickets.

The would be contenders of the ruling party had started lobbying much before while the opposition leaders also have now become active. The opposition contenders are in a little bit confusion due to party's indecisive stand over joining the mayoral election. But many of the opposition leaders think that the elections should not go unchallenged.

The silent grouping taking place within the ruling party may take a serious turn with the announcement of a date for filing nomination, a number of party insiders said. Similarly, the opposition may also suffer seriously over nomination as the sitting chairman and another ex-

chairman are in the probable race for Awami League (AL) nomination both having blessings from the party stalwarts.

Ex-Chairman of Sylhet Municipality advocate AFM Kamal, who has a good base in Sylhet town has long been a strong contender for the mayoral post from BNP. The district BNP President, MA Haque, a prominent businessman is also an aspirant for contesting the coveted post. Both are hopeful of getting the blessings from the BNP stalwart M Saifur Rahman for the party support. But, a number of leaders while talking to The Daily Star could not make it clear who might be the successful person in winning the party ticket.

On the other hand, at least two probable candidates from the opposition Awami League seem to be confident in getting the party nomination, provided any change in the party stand. Strong aspirants Badar Uddin Kamran, sitting chairman,

who is also the Sylhet town Awami League president and Babrul Hossain, ex-Chairman of Sylhet Municipality and Sylher Sadar upazila are lobbying for the party ticket.

Meanwhile, Awami League sources indicated that, if the party remains in its present stand for boycotting the polls here, there is every possibility of contesting the election by the brighter candidates from non-partisan forum.

Kamran while talking to this correspondent said, still I am hopeful of getting the party ticket for the mayoral polls as I had tried my best to perform my job in the past.

However, he declined to say anything whether he would contest as an independent candidate, if his party continues to boycott the mayoral elections. Similarly Babul said that he had talked to the central leaders like Samad Azad and others. So, he hoped to get the AL ticket.

109 suffering from arsenicosis in Charghat UZ in RajshahiABDUL WADOOD, *Rajshahi*

A total of 109 people have been suffering from arsenicosis in Charghat upazila, it has been revealed in the Screening Progress Completion Report of National Screening Programme (Phase II) conducted by Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project (BAMWSP) and Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).

According to the report, a total of 1,50,729 people 77,748 males and 72,981 females, were surveyed in 54 wards of six unions. During the survey completed recently, 109 established cases of arsenicosis have been identified. Some 13,500 people have been at risk as they have been drinking arsenic-contaminated water everyday.

According to the survey report, there are now 11,169 hand-tubewells in operation. Out of the total, 1,000 tubewells have been

identified as arsenic-contaminated.

An average number of 13.5 people depend on a tubewell for drinking water in 79 villages.

A total of 23, the highest number of arsenicosis patients have been found in Nimpara Union followed by 21 in Charghat union, 19 in Yusaffur Union, 17 in Bhaya Laxmipur Union, 16 in Saheha union and 13 patients in Sardah union and 13 patients in Sardah union.

Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) sources said, the arsenic-free tubewells have been marked green and the arsenic contaminated tubewells have been marked red. People have been advised not to use arsenic-contaminated water.

"But they cannot but use arsenic-contaminated water in spite of knowing its harmful effects, as there is no alternative/source of water", said a DPHE official adding, "We are only screening out the arsenic-

contaminated tubewells, but we are not arranging alternative source of drinking water for them.

Heavy rain Low-lying areas in Ctg floodedOUR CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Heavy rain disrupted normal life and flooded many low-lying areas in the port city on Wednesday.

The submerged areas are Chandgaon, Katalganj, Sholokbahar, Chawkbazar, Bakalia, Halishahar, Bahaddarhat, Balandighi, Masterpool, Chaktai and Khatunganj.

The rain accompanied by gusty wind began at 8 am and continued for five hours. Met office recorded 94.4 mm rainfall.

Crackdown on poppy farmers in BandarbanUNB, *Bandarban*

In a crackdown on poppy farmers, security forces damaged poppy plants on six acres of land in inaccessible areas of Bandarban in last one week.

During the weeklong drive, they seized 200 kgs of poppy seed, one kg of opium and opium-making equipment from the areas. Opium is made from poppy seeds.

Officials said some tribal people in unreachable areas of Thanchi, Ruma and Aikadam upazilas cultivate poppy and make opium from its seeds, defying the government ban.

Acting on a tip-off, some 25 mobile teams, comprising army and BDR troops raided a 45-km area in four days and seized the seeds and opium. They said the drive would continue.

They are also motivating the tribal people to give up poppy cultivation and switch over to farming of other crops.

Training course for women journalistsUNB, *Jhalakati*

A weeklong follow-up training course for women journalists started at Jhalakati sports bhaban on Saturday.

Twenty trainees from Jhalakathi, Barisal, Bhola, Barguna, Patuakhali and Pirojpur are participating in the course arranged by Mass-line Media Centre. Various aspects of journalism, including gender issue, human rights, democracy and environment, will be discussed in the training course.

Storm hits Jhenidah for second timeDELWAR KABIR, *Jhenidah*

A severe cyclonic storm swept over Sailkupa Upazila in Jhenidah on May 3 for the second time.

The storm damages crops and other property worth over Tk 11 crore, according a primary survey conducted by Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

The storm continued for an hour which started at 9 am swept over villages Baroipara, Garagain, Habilopur, Kabirpur, Paikpara, Aushia, Sailkupa, Agunepara, Dignagar, Acdintaur, Scikhpara and some other villages.

Banana plants on 1316 hectares out of a total of 1,645 hectares worth Taka 5.33 crore, standing Boro paddy on 5,270 hectares out of total 6,200 hectares worth Tk 1.40 crore, vegetables on 1,050 hectares out of total 1,250 hectares worth Tk 10

lakh and betel leaf on 30 hectares out of total 95 hectares worth Tk 20 lakh was damaged partially.

Furthermore, at least 20,715 trees worth Tk four crore and houses worth Tk 30 lakh damaged by the storm.

Moreover, heavy rainfall in the morning of May 6 was also the reason for damage of crops.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Sailkupa Al Kama Siddiquee visited the storm affected villages and assured all possible help by the government to ease the sufferings of the affected people, who lost their houses by the storm on May 3.

Most of the affected families need relief and materials and proper rehabilitation immediately. Now they live a sub-human life under the open sky.

Moulvibazar DIARY**Publication ceremony**OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

The publication ceremony of a book of poems composed by poet Md Shahabuddin Ahmed was held at the local Saifur Rahman auditorium recently.

The publication ceremony was organised by 'Shatabdir Shatadal', a cultural organisation of Moulvibazar town. Presided over by Mirja Farid Ahmed Bag, the function was attended by renowned poet of the country Rabindra Gop as the chief guest. It was addressed, among others, by Principal Kuresh Khan, Habibur Rahman Abu, Prof Rajat Kanti Goswami, Abdul Motin, Abdul Mohit Tutu and writer of the book Md Shahabuddin Ahmed. The ceremony was followed by a cultural function.

Drama festival concludes

A 12-day drama festival with the slogan of "Awaken your conscience, man!" concluded at Moulvibazar town recently.

Moulvibazar Zila Nattya Parishad (District Drama Council) arranged the festival to mark the 50 years of 'Language Movement'. Renowned drama artist of the country and Television star Pijush Bandopadhyaya who is also the presidium member of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation inaugurated the festival on April 19.

The inaugural function was presided over by Abdul Muhit Tutu.



PHOTO: STAR

Doctors vaccinating goats for prevention of various diseases at a programme on Wednesday at Aamganti mohallah in Sirajganj. Women, children and old people from far flung areas of rural areas brought their goats for vaccination. A total of 700 goats were vaccinated on the day.

700 goats vaccinated in Sirajganj in a dayOUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

A total of 700 goats were vaccinated to prevent from various diseases at a programme held in Sirajganj on Wednesday.

The vaccination programme was held as part of a nationwide goat

breeding scheme undertaken by the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Besides, vaccinating the animals, the government will assist the goat rearers with small loan. The government took up the programme with a view to eradicating poverty.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Sirajganj Ibadut Ali opened the programme at 11am on Wednesday at Aamganti Moholla in Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

District Animal Husbandry Officer Emdadul Haque was in the chair while Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry Habibur Rahamn, Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension Abdul Zaber Mian spoke on the occasion where a large number of goat rearers including women and children took part.

CU students' silent procession

CU CORRESPONDENT

The students of Chittagong University (CU) brought out a silent procession and held a rally at the campus on Tuesday protesting the killing of Buddhist Monk Gayanjati Mohashabir and Hindu priest Modan Mohan Gomasami.

The teachers of the university under the banner of Chittagong University Teachers' Society (CUTS) brought out the procession from the teachers' lounge at Arts faculty of the university and ended at the Shaheed Minar premises in the morning.

Later, a rally was held there. At the rally the speakers condemned the brutal killings and demanded the trial immediately.