

## NEWS SNAPS

## HSC examinee killed in road accident

UNB, *Thakurgaon*

A teenage Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinee was killed in a road accident at Jabarhat in Pirganj upazila on Friday.

Witnesses said when Rehana Parvin, 17, of Kamai village was going to Pirganj headquarters in a motorbike a tractor dashed her bike from behind and ran over her. She died on the spot. Police seized the tractor and a case was filed.

## Relief for Meghna tragedy victims

UNB, *Patuakhali*

Government distributed relief among 61 families here on Sunday who lost their relatives in the disastrous launch capsizing in Meghna river on May 3.

The relief materials include Tk 2000 in cash and one sack of rice for each family. Home Minister Atif Hossain Chowdhury and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf distributed the relief in Golachipa, Dasmina and Baufal upazilas. They also said more Tk 8000 would be given to each of the affected family. Later at a condolence meeting at Golachipa upazila parishad auditorium the minister expressed deep shock at the death of the victims in the launch capsizing and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

## Case under speedy trial law in Sherpur

UNB, *Sherpur*

Police have submitted charge sheet of the first case filed under 'Speedy Trial Law, 2002' within seven days of the incident.

Sources said officer-in-charge (OC) Jahurul Islam submitted the charge sheet before the court on Thursday against all the five terrorists accused in the case filed on May 3. According to the case, Kamal, Hassen Ali, Rafiqul Islam, Abdul and Bhadrul looted Tk 40,000 in cash and a mobile set after attacking a shop in the bus terminal area of the town injuring the shop owner on May 3. The accused remained absconding. Meanwhile, the local businessmen held a protest meeting and handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner and Police Super demanding arrest and punishment of the hoodlums.

## Clash over cutting tree: 15 injured

UNB, *Magura*

A fierce clash between two rival groups at Kharichile village in Sripur upazila left 15 people injured on Tuesday.

Locals said the supporters of Sawpan Kumer Bishwas and Sachindranath Sarkar attacked each other with lethal weapons over cutting a tree from a disputed land. Seriously injured Swapan Kumar Bishwas, 40, Prasnata Kumar Bishwas, 32, Ajit Bishwas, 50, and Sachindranath Sarkar, 35, were admitted to Sadar hospital. Two separate cases were filed with the police.

## Alleged rapist caught red-handed

UNB, *Jhalakati*

An alleged rapist was caught red-handed and given mass beating at a house at Galua village in Rajapur upazila on Wednesday night.

Police said Rojob Ali, 30 was caught red-handed while fleeing after raping the wife of a rickshawpuller at the house of Shahjahan. The culprit abducted the woman of village Kamudas Kathi in the same upazila when she with her one-year-old daughter on lap was walking outside the house for her husband. Later Rojob Ali was handed over to police. A case was filed.

## Boro cultivation on 15,953 hectares

UNB, *Pirojpur*

Some 15,953 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation in Pirojpur in the current season with an output target of 56,000 metric tons.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), of the total, 15,331 hectares have been brought under 'Ufsi' variety while the rest under local variety. Of the total land, 1,605 hectares have been cultivated in Sadar, 2,320 hectares in Nesarabad, 15 hectares in Kalkhali, 10,430 hectares in Nazirpur, 16 hectares in Bhandaria and 1,567 hectares in Mathbaria.

DAE also have set up several demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

## Training course on gender, human rights

UNB, *Jhalakati*

A weeklong follow-up training course on gender and human rights for newsmen began in Jhalakati on Saturday.

Some 20 women journalists from six districts of Barisal division are taking part in the training, organised by Massline Media Centre (MMC), a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) that works for the media. Deputy Commissioner M Ehsanul Huq attended the inaugural session as the chief guest while local press club president Shamsul Islam Chand as special guest. The workshop will provide training on how to write reports on different sensational issues like human rights violation, gender discrimination, environment, democratic development and good governance.

## Rice for development projects

UNB, *Jhenidah*

Government under the rural infrastructure maintenance programme has sanctioned 1,221 mts of rice for implementing 387 projects in Sadar upazila.

According to official sources, of the total, 472 metric tons have been allotted for 114 general projects and 749 mts for 273 special projects. Meanwhile, 965.5 metric tons of rice have already been released against the projects and 75 per cent works have already been completed. The rest of the work is expected to be completed by May 30 next. The projects include reconstruction and renovation of roads, educational institutions, Idgha, mosques and temples.

## Impending disaster!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Resident students of three halls of Government Ananda Mohan (AM) College in Mymensingh town may meet the fate of the "Jagannath hall tragedy" at any moment resulting in loss of many valuable lives.

The three halls named Abul Mansur Ahmed Hall, Shilpacharya Joyanal Abedin Hall and Kabi Sukanta Hall were established in 1908. Now the halls are on verge of collapse.

There are about 300 students residing in these halls who reside in serious risk. Cracks have developed in many parts of the halls. In the rainy season, the sufferings of the students of these halls go beyond description as water leaks through the dilapidated roofs of the halls.

Now the halls are not only dangerous, but also unfit for living.

Md Saiful Islam, a second year student of Geography Department who has been residing in Abul Mansur Ahmed Hall told The Daily Star that they feel insecure every

moment in the halls. He also told that due to lack of security measure and shortage of sufficient toilets the students also have to suffer a lot.

Azharul Islam, a third year student of Accounting Department of Joyanal Abedin Hall told in the similar tone of Saiful Islam. He also informed that they are facing scarcity of pure drinking water as the tubewells in the halls already went out of order at the beginning of summer.

Amitav Das Shekhar, a final year Student of Political Science Department who resides in Kabi Kukanta Hall told The Daily Star that our problems know no bounds including the problems in bathroom, lack of pure drinking water and of security. He also told that sometimes, snakes enter into different rooms of the halls. Sumitav Das, a final year student of Physics Department of the same hall told that they wanted to leave the halls without facing any casualties. No one knows when the hall which is about a century old will be renovated, he told.

There are six residential halls including one for female students in Ananda Mohan College with about 500 seats.

Now the number of students is over 15 thousand with about 5 thousand female students.

The students of this college have been facing an acute accommodation problem. The female students are the worst sufferers.

There are only 120 seats in the female hall where 180 students are resident female students.

When contacted, vice-principal of the college Prof AFM Shamsuzzoha told this correspondent that they already wrote several times about the very pitiable condition of the three halls, but no step was taken by the authorities concerned as yet. He also said that they felt very tensed as the halls might collapse at any moment. He also regretted that their college was not selected for new 100-seat hostel allocation though 142 government and non-government colleges were selected for this purpose.

## Boy rescued after 17 hours of abduction in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Police of Palashbari, Bogra and Joypurhat in a joint operation rescued kidnapped boy Nazrul, 7, after 17 hours of abduction from his village home Jaiturbala in Palashbari upazila on May 6 night.

Police arrested three kidnapers in a trap on May 2. Abductors claimed Tk two lakh as ransom from the victim's guardians.

The victim, Nazrul, son of Mintu Mia was a student of class I. At deep night on May 6 the alleged kidnapers entered into the room of the victim and kidnapped the little boy while asleep leaving behind a written paper demanding ransom of Tk two lakh. The kidnapers also

gave direction to come to a bridge adjacent to Bogra Mohasthan Museum with a cloth, if agreed, to pay ransom by 3 to 5pm on May 7. On receiving the ransom money Nazrul would be freed, they further added.

Finding no other alternative, father of the victim sought police help. Palashbari thana police, however, took a prompt initiative. On the scheduled day and time, police laid a trap and sent father of the victim with a piece of red cloth to the spot while the entire area was cordoned by plain clothes policemen. On reaching the spot Mantu was taken by kidnapers Rafiqul and Mahfuzer to a nearby lonely

place where they asked him to pay money. Meanwhile, police swooped on the spot and arrested two persons.

According to the confessional statement of arrested persons police recovered victim Nazrul from the house of Abdul Hamid of Badurtola in Bogra town and arrested another person in this connection.

The arrested persons are Rafiqul Islam, 25, of village Hossainpur in Sirajganj, Mahfuzer Rahman, 30, and Kaiyum, 35, of village Shib Samudra in Shibganj upazila of Joypurhat.

A case was filed with Palashbari thana.

## Satkhira Press Club executive committee



President GS

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

The election to Satkhira Press Club was held on May 10.

A-13 member executive committee was elected headed by Prof Abu Ahmed (The Daily Star) and Abdul Bari (Dinkal) as president and general secretary (GS) respectively.

The other office-bearers are: Vice-president Abdul Khaleq (Sonalibarta), joint secretary-Habibur Rahman (Banglabazar), organisation secretary Sk. Masud Hossain (Janata), treasurer Kazi Moina (Al-Mozadded), cultural secretary Ebrahim Hossain (Khabar), and office secretary Nurul Islam (Kafela).

Members are: Mosharrif Hossain (Runner), Matior Rahman (Pathaker Kagoj), Abdul Safoor Sardar (Rajpathar Dabi), Golam Sorowab (Sfulinga) and Eyarab Hossain (Kalyan).

## Little Sagar waits for return of his slain father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Imran Hossain (Sagar), a male child of four years three months old still does not know that his father was killed by a group of miscreants on January 26 this year.

Sagar, the only son of the victim, Tofael Ahmed (Tuhin), 28, still asks his mother and other family members when will his father come to take care of him. But everybody keeps mum by shedding tears as there is no answer to the question.

Family sources said that people who came to see for the last time the slain Tuhin also broke down when Sagar called his father apprehending to be asleep.

The baby is waiting for his father's return.

Tuhin, president, Kerkata union Juba League, a front organisation of Awami League, by profession a fish trader while returning home from Chittagong, was purchasing hilsha fish keeping the loaded truck by the side of the road. The place was about 200 metres away from his house in front of a mosque. There a gang of miscreants led by Bahauddin, son of Moksed Gazi of village Kisumal Elishpur attacked him. They hurled bomb on the victim's head. As a result, he died on the spot at about 11pm on January 26.

Tuhin, 28, son of Khaitar Hossain of village Kismet Elishpur in Kalaroa upazila and first among two brothers and one sister, was the main source of income of the family. "Now I am a 'pauper' said the victim's father adding 'I want exemplary punishment to the culprits'.

Shirin Akhter Kona, the widow told this correspondent that she lost her husband and in this way she lost every thing. She questioned who would take care of her child. She demanded that the culprits be hanged for the crime. Other family members also demanded immediate arrest and punishment to those involved in the killing.

However, a case was lodged with



Little boy Sagar in lap of his mother Shirin Akhter Kona. His father Tofael Ahmed (Tuhin), 28, was killed by miscreants on January 26 this year. But the little boy does not understand the reality. He still waits for return of his father.

Kalaroa thana in this regard accusing BNP activist Mosharrif Hossain (Tagar), uncle of the victim.

Local people caught Mofazzal Hossain (Mofa) who was fleeing to India after the incident. But none was arrested till filing of this report.

When contacted the officer-in-charge (OC) of Kalaroa thana told

The Daily Star that they were taking the case seriously. He also said, that several drives were already been launched at different places adding the culprits would be arrested soon. The OC also told this correspondent that the murder occurred following a previous enmity.

## Rajshahi city lacks recreation facilities

BSS, *Rajshahi*

Rajshahi city lacks recreational facilities and other civic amenities for its citizens as no new scope for their entertainment has been created in the last one decade.

Rajshahi Central Park and Zoo, Padma Residential Area Park and the bank of the river Padma are the only places where people go for walking and recreation. But these are also losing their attractions for mismanagement, lack of safety and security as well as for increasing the intensity of crimes.

Rajshahi Central Park and Zoo was established in the early 70's. It remained the main source of recreation for the city dwellers up to mid-nineties. But since then it started to lose its attractions.

Shortage of funds hampered its

proper management. As a result the park lost its beauty. Animals of the zoo died one after another and most of the animal cages became deserted.

Then Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) took its management in 1997. The park and the zoo were rearranged and renovated and they regained their beauty in the first year of taking charge by RCC.

But soon conditions started to deteriorate. To say specifically, condition of the zoo has not been at all improved, rather some more animals including a tiger died.

The riverbank has also become a dreamland for the drug addicts. They are seen in groups almost all throughout the day. Smugglers and their agents are also destroying the environment of the bank.

Simla Park, built by some youths

of Dargapara on the bank of the river alongside the town protection embankment had become a place of attraction for young visitors. But the river Padma has almost devoured the park in last three years.

The age-old Bhuban Mohan Park, situated at Saheb Bazar, the heart of the city has virtually been abandoned for many years. The park is actually used as a place of holding small rallies and discussion meetings.

RCC created some facilities of games and physical exercise for children. But no child visits this congested park. Keeping the park facilities intact, RCC has built a Shaheed Minar and public toilet there.

Previously cinema halls had been the main sources of recreation

for city people. Expansion of electronic visual media, like television and dish culture, has substantially decreased importance of the cinema halls now-a-days.

There are not also sufficient number of playgrounds in the city. Rajshahi district stadium, Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, Rajshahi college playground, Rajshahi Medical college campus playground, Rajshahi Teachers' Training college playground and Rajshahi jail playground are only used for their own purposes and for scheduled big tournaments.

Most of the other colleges and schools have no playground. Children and youths play cricket and football on the roads and on small fallow lands.

Rajshahi city also lacks facilities of cultural activities. There is no

open stage or auditorium in the city. Rajshahi medical college auditorium, a big one, is scheduled only for government related programmes in addition to its own purposes.

Rajshahi Zilla parishad auditorium in also a big one. Private cultural organisations have no auditorium of their own. Most of the cultural organisations can arrange small functions only twice or thrice a year due to shortage of funds.

Meanwhile, a larger portion of the adolescent and young community of the city indulge either in gambling of in smuggling or in any other anti-social and unfair activities due to lack of recreational facilities.

Neither the government agencies nor the local bodies like RCC and RDA have so far taken any step in this regard.