



### Constable's costly 'mistake'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy on the way home from school was seriously injured in the head by a traffic constable yesterday.

Sinat Shamir Turja, a student of class-IV at the Government Laboratory High School, received head injuries when he -- instructed by Constable M Aoranga (10488) -- tried to pull an iron rod out of the boot of a black taxicab he was travelling in. The constable 'mistakenly' let the boot cover fall on his head, leaving him profusely bleeding.

Traffic Sergeant Amran stopped the taxicab at the Malibagh Crossing at about 11.00am and asked the driver to show its papers.

And, the constable accompanying the sergeant started checking the rear of the car and asked Shamir to step out, pointing to the iron rod in the boot.

"I told the constable that the rod was a tool to unscrew tyres. The constable asked me to lean forward to pull the rod out. The boot cover he was holding upraised fell on my head," Shamir told The Daily Star about an hour after the incident.

The driver and the sergeant took him to the Jahanara Clinic nearby. SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

### Bail petition of Mukul Begum rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The third additional metropolitan sessions judge's court, Dhaka, yesterday rejected the bail petition of Mukul Begum, a convict in the sensational Rubel murder case.

Mukul Begum was given one year's rigorous imprisonment by the same court on Monday.

The court also handed out life-term to 13 Detective Branch (DB) policemen, including AC Akram Hussain, in the same case.

Judge Mollah Mastafa Kamal passed the order upon a petition, seeking bail by the defence lawyers on behalf of Mukul Begum.

Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman and Abul Kalam Azad submitted the petition on grounds that they would file an appeal with the higher court against the verdict of the trial court.

The prosecution side opposed the bail petition.

Meanwhile, the defence lawyers on behalf of two other convicts in the case -- AC Akram Hussain and SI Amir Ahmed Tareq -- submitted two separate petitions, seeking certified copies of the judgement.

They stated that they would file appeals with the higher court against the judgement.

After hearing, the court directed the authorities concerned to supply certified copies of the judgement to the convicts.

## Heavy flood in Assam and Meghalaya

AFP, Guwahati

Heavy flooding and mudslides in India's northeastern region has cut off road links and marooned more than 25,000 people, officials said yesterday.

A government spokesman in Assam said 35 villages in the eastern district of Dhemaji were submerged, leaving thousands homeless.

"The flood situation has turned critical with the river Jadhoh, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, rising due to torrential rains during the past few days," Dhemaji district magistrate Biswaranjan Samal told the wire service by telephone.

Thousands of villagers were forced to take shelter on raised embankments and in makeshift relief camps with their homes submerged by the surging floodwaters.

"More than 25,000 villagers are now taking shelter in schools and other raised platforms and if rains do not stop then many more villages are likely to be hit in the next 24 hours," the district magistrate said.

Road links between Dhemaji and the rest of Assam remained cut off after floodwaters inundated the national highway. In adjoining Meghalaya state, at least 50 villages

have been cut off from capital Shillong with heavy mudslides blocking roads at Dawki, close to the border with Bangladesh.

"Heavy rains during the past four days have caused landslides, maybe the worst in Meghalaya's history, thereby closing the national highway," a government official in Shillong said by telephone.

With more heavy rains forecast and flood control officials warning that waters of the river Brahmaputra were rising steadily, the Assam government sounded a maximum alert with police, paramilitary, and disaster management teams on standby to assist civil authorities.

"We have started providing food to the flood-hit villagers," the district magistrate of Dhemaji said.

His assurances, however, were contested by local community leaders.

"Hundreds of villagers are virtually starving in the makeshift camps with no relief and food supplies coming in from the government," Dilip Saikia Sonowal, a local lawmaker, said.

"Health teams have been rushed to flood affected areas to prevent outbreak of possible water borne diseases," Assam health minister Bhumidhar Barman said.

## Letters to 3 other channels AL warns BTV of legal action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aggrieved at 'largely discriminatory coverage' by the electronic media, the main opposition Awami League has sent letters to their authorities asking for immediate redress.

Letters were sent to the authorities of state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) and three private channels -- Ekushey Television (ETV), Channel I and ATN Bangla on June 15, AL chief Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury told newsmen yesterday.

The BTV not only gave poor coverage to the AL but also presented 'negative and motivated' news on it, he said.

The AL's media monitoring cell monitored news aired by the four organisations from January 1 to June 10. It found 'major discrimination' in giving coverage to the AL.

Letters were sent following this, Sabers said.

According to the findings of the cell, the BTV gave only 0.41 per cent of its news coverage to the AL and 99.59 per cent to the ruling BNP and the government.

The ETV gave 13.73 per cent of its news to the AL and 86.27 per cent to those in power.

Channel-I gave 12.3 per cent of its coverage to the AL as against 87.7 per cent to the ruling party and ATN Bangla gave 11.71 per cent to the AL and 88.29 per cent to the ruling party, he mentioned.

In his letter addressed to the director general of the BTV, Saber resented 'negative' and 'motivated' news presentation on AL. He warned of legal action if it did not refrain from doing so.

He told newsmen AL considered SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Arms, ammunition recovered from College of Leather Technology: 4 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint team of police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday raided a hostel of Bangladesh College of Leather Technology and arrested four students with arms and ammunition.

The team searched the room no-201 and 205 of Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda Hostel and recovered a revolver, 460 bullets, two magazines of pistol, five mobile phones, hockey sticks, three passports, several cheque books of Sonali Bank and Tk. 56,700 in cash.

The arrested students are Shafiq Alam Nayan, Mohammad Borhan Uddin Bhuiyan, Golam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman and Nazmul Sakib.

Police and BDR officials taking part in the raid said the two rooms were used as 'torture cells' and criminals used to take businessmen and other people to the rooms to realise money.

The joint team raided the hall at about 5:30 am. The arrested stu SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Environment friendly budget Involve local government, allocate more funds

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

An environment friendly budget can be prepared by strengthening local governments and involving them in the budget-making process.

Pre-budget discussions should be organised in the 64 upazilas of the country so that people can also participate in the process.

Renowned economist Prof Muzaffar Ahmed expressed this view at a roundtable on budget proposals for fiscal 2002-03, held in the city yesterday.

He urged the government to take necessary steps for holding such discussions from next year. Environment friendly programmes should be allocated more funds in the proposed budget, he added.

The roundtable was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (BAPA) and participated by a number of intellectuals. Arifur Rahman, a

BIDS research fellow, presented the keynote paper, analysing environmental aspects of the budget proposals.

Prof Muzaffar, who is also president of the BAPA, called for spreading the movement for protection of environment all over the country, instead of keeping it confined to the urban areas.

In his paper, Arifur Rahman put forward a 13-point proposal. He suggested that there should be 'green tax' to punish environment polluters on the basis of 'polluter pay principle.' An emergency programme should be taken up for dredging the rivers to keep those navigable, he said.

Arifur Rahman suggested budgetary support for programmes to harness rainwater, supply of piped water from open wetlands and reservoirs and monetary help for setting up an waste treatment plant

for tanneries at a new place before their shifting from Hazaribagh in the city. Besides, import of insecticides excepting a few special ones should be banned, he felt.

Referring to the proposed ban on import of reconditioned cars, he said steps should be taken to ensure that 'concessions' given in the name of environment protection are not misused.

He said reduction of duties on import of electric battery-powered cars and waiving of income tax on agro-processing industries would help reduce air pollution.

The participants welcomed budgetary proposals to have an environment friendly transport system and a pollution-free environment as a positive step.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## Jubo Dal leader shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo Dal leader was shot in the head in the Motijheel Commercial Area yesterday.

Morshed Alam Kaikobad, 32, who contested the last parliamentary election as an independent candidate from the Bholo-2 constituency, was fired at when he was going to the Sharif Mansion by rickshaw to see his cousin, now MP from the constituency. He was accompanied by his friend Asim Kumar.

An eyewitness, who was having lunch in a restaurant nearby, said that a gang of about 12, seven of them armed, shot him at about 2:15pm.

A hawker, another witness to the incident, said the gang fled to Arambagh when the local people chased them after firing.

Kaikobad was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and later taken to the intensive care unit (ICU) after surgery. With his condition deteriorating, he was shifted to the Combined Military Hospital last night.

Kaikobad defected from the Jubo League and joined the Jubo Dal before the last parliamentary election. He contested the election as an independent candidate after he failed to get nomination from the BNP, sources said.

Asim told reporters at the DMCH that he (Asim) came to the city on Saturday to meet Kaikobad.

Recently, Kaikobad got a work order of Tk 32 lakh for Petrobangla pipelines, added Asim.

## Robbers loot 215 tola gold, Tk 3.65 lakh from 2 houses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers took away gold ornaments and money from two houses in the city's Mirpur area in the early hours of yesterday and Monday night.

A gang of about ten entered the house of Abdul Sakkur, manager of Titas gas, on the first floor of a building by cutting the window grills at 21/A Block in Mirpur at about 3:30 am.

The gang confined the inmates in a room at gunpoint and looted 215 tolas of gold and Tk 25000 in cash.

Abdul Sakkur filed a case with Mirpur police.

In another incident, a gang of robbers entered the house of businessman Abdul Kuddus on the first floor of a building at Lalkuthi Major Road in the city's Mirpur area on Monday night.

The robbers went to the residence and pressed the calling bell. As soon as the inmates opened the door, the gang got inside the house.

They confined the inmates in a room, took away the keys of the almirah and looted Tk 4.40 lakh and gold ornaments worth over Tk 3 lakh from the house.

Abdul Kuddus filed a case with Mirpur Police Station.

None, however, was arrested till last night.



Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury, flanked by President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, comes out of the Bangabhaban after taking oath yesterday.

## No third party mediation, Delhi tells Morshed Khan

PTI, New Delhi

India has unambiguously conveyed to Bangladesh that there was no room for involvement of third party or regional organisations like SAARC in settling its bilateral issues with Pakistan.

"This was clearly and unambiguously conveyed" to visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan during his talks Monday with Indian leaders, an External Affairs Ministry spokesperson told reporters.

New Delhi made it clear that all issues pertaining to Indo-Pak relations can be discussed only between the two countries.

"There is no room for third party involvement in this regard," she said

adding "there is no room for involvement of regional organisations like SAARC."

Khan met Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and held detailed discussions with External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh and National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra. He also had meetings with Leader of Opposition Sonia Gandhi and former Prime Minister I K Gujral.

The Bangladesh Minister arrived from Pakistan on Sunday on his mission to impress on the two countries the need to lower tensions and resume their dialogue to address outstanding issues.

Khan's visit is the first to India after the new government took charge in Bangladesh last October.

India conveyed its concerns on infiltration and cross-border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir, she said.

BSS adds: During the meeting with Jaswant Singh, Khan expressed the hope that India would take steps to narrow down the trade imbalance between the two countries.

The foreign minister also expressed the hope that India would take early initiative to accord duty-free access to rest of the Bangladesh items out of the 25 categories as assured during the recently held trade talks.

Both the sides underscored the need for better management of the SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Rape, murder of housewife 6 to die in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Six persons were awarded death sentence here yesterday by the District and Sessions Judge's Court for raping and killing a woman.

The convicts are, victim's husband Minarul alias Mina, Sukur Ali Ekramul Hossain alias Anis, Sirajul Islam, Tajibul Islam and Kablu.

According to prosecution, Minarul took his wife Minu Ara alias Subarna, 20, from her father's house at village Hazrahata under Sadar upazila at about 11 am on September 1, 2000.

When they reached Chandrabati Idera at about 9 pm,

Minurul blindfolded Subarna's eyes with a napkin. The four other convicts, who were waiting there, suddenly swooped on her. They along with Minarul raped Subarna and strangled her.

A murder and rape case was registered with the Chuadanga Sadar police. The Investigating Officer (IO) of the case submitted a charge-sheet against 10 persons.

After examining 19 prosecution witnesses and relevant documents, the court pronounced the judgement. The court acquitted four others of charges.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdul Wahub Mollick appeared for the state while six advocates for the accused.

## PBCP cadre shot dead in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alleged criminal Shahidul Islam of Daulatpur was gunned down at about 7:30 pm by unidentified youngmen at Shangeeta Cinema Hall on Monday.

The alleged killers left the scene by a motorbike, firing blank shots, police quoting witnesses said.

According to witnesses, the alleged killers shot him in the chest. He died on the spot.

Son of businessman Shamsur Rahman, Shahidul Islam was an armed cadre of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). He was an accused in Jubo League leader Bikash Barhoi murder case.

Bikash Barhoi was shot dead at SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Illegal workers Malaysia to end amnesty July 31

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia has announced it will end an amnesty period for some 600,000 illegal workers on July 31, after which those remaining here will face harsh new punishments including whipping.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said changes to Malaysia's immigration law for illegal workers and their employers would take effect on August 1, the official Bernama news agency reported late Monday.

The amnesty period, which has been in place since March 21, enables illegal immigrants, who are mainly Indonesian, to return home without being prosecuted.

"After the date of implementation, enforcement will be carried out and any appeal on the matter will not be entertained," said Abdullah, who is also home minister.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2