The Paily Star

Khalid jailed for12 yrs for attack on Hasina's car

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Naogaon

A young man, Khalid Bin Hedayet, has been sentenced to 12 years in the prison for his attack on the car of the leader of opposition, Sheikh Hasina, at Naogaon. After the verdict Khalid was taken to the Naogaon prison amidst strict secu-

rity. The verdict was given by the district and session's judge Mohammed Shawkat Hussain

The attack occurred on March 4 of this year when Sheikh Hasina went to Naogaon on party activities. Khalid attacked her car and other accompanying cars. He was immediately arrested and a case was filed with Naogaon police station under the Public Safety Act.

BNP leaves Sylhet reps in the cold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has decided to drop Sylhet from the Chittagong-Sylhet divisional representatives meeting.

As rescheduled, the Chittagong divisional meeting will be held on August 28.

The joint meeting of Chittagong and Sylhet divisional representatives was rescheduled from August 13 to 17 to 24 and finally to August 28 but without Sylhet.

Sources said the schedule of the meeting has been deferred thrice for lack of coordination among party leaders and of timeslot in the schedule of BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Surprisingly enough, the BNP, which officially announced to hold the Chittagong divisional meeting at the BNP central office, will in fact hold it at the Prime Minister's Bhaban (previous state guesthouse)

The BNP does not want to make the meeting at the Prime Minister's Bhaban known to all in fear of public criticism, the sources said,

The party has decided to hold the meeting behind closed doors. The meeting will be almost off-limits 'representative cards' will be let in, the sources said. The BNP chairperson will pre SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Stagnated water in the under-construction area of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque, a suspected breeding ground for aedes, sums up the laid-back attitude of the Dhaka City Corporation in fighting the dengue outbreak.

SAARC FMs meet today amid tight security

AFP, Kathmandu

AFP, Paris

Security was tight in Nepal's capital Kathmandu yesterday as foreign ministers from South Asia arrived for a regional conference The seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

(SAARC) meeting is being held here even though the government is fighting Maoist rebellion that has left some 4,300 people dead since 1996.

Fighting takes place mainly in rural areas of the country, but the rebels have planted several bombs in Kathmandu in the past few months, including one last week at a college that injured six people

Hundreds of soldiers in battle fatigues and police officers patrolled the streets vesterday.

Officials said security was particularly high around the hotels where the

foreign delegations were staying.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando was due to attend but cancelled at the last minute because of a crucial parliamentary vote at home. Fernando's deputy, Lal Gamage, is expected to travel to Kathmandu on Thursday to make a token appearance.

The main themes of the meeting will be economic cooperation, social development and combating terrorism, officials in Kathmandu said.

In January, a SAARC summit in Kathmandu which was attended by the leaders of the seven member countries, was completely overshadowed by tensions between India and Pakistan following an attack on the Indian parliament that New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based militants

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee refused any dialogue with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, although the two men publicly shook hands.

Tensions between the nuclear rivals have remained high with India ruling

AL activist stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctq

An Awami League activist was stabbed to death in Mirersarai on Monday night.

Tea stall owner Nurul Islam Babul, 45, was stabbed in front of his shop at Gazaria Bazar in Shaherkhali union by a gang allegedly led by one Nurul Huda, according to Additional SP (north) Hasib Aziz. Babul died on the spot.

The police official said the killing could a sequel to previous enmity. He said Babul and Huda were activists of AL.

But Chittagong north district AL leaders in a statement claimed that

the killers belonged to ruling BNP. Babul's wife Kohinoor Begum lodged a murder case with Mirersarai thana accusing 10 unidentified persons, police said.

Police arrested one person on the same night in connection with the killing.

In another incident on Sunday night, criminals allegedly loyal Didar of Islami Chhatra Shibir severed one hand and one leg of BNP activist Mafzal Ahmad near his home at Sundarpur under Fatikchhari upazila.

Police rescued Ahmed on the next morning in a critical condition. He is undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College

Hospital Ahmad is secretary of Kanchanpur union BNP and treasurer of the upazila Muktijoddha

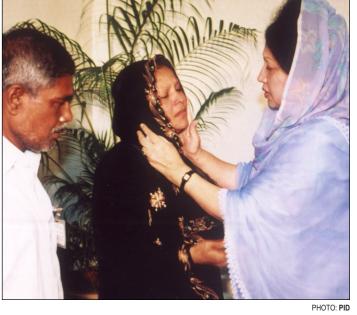
Tarigul urges editors to help build social resistance to crimes

BSS, Dhaka

Sangsad.

Information Minister Tarioul Islam vesterday sought cooperation from the media to build social resistance to crimes.

Different types of crimes including killing, rape and abduction will be reduced if it is possible to build social resistance through spontaneous participation of people, he said. The media have to create aware-



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia consoles the bereaved mother of Rubaiyet Ahmed Bappi at her office yesterday.

Govt to disband **AL-formed** municipal bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to disband a number of municipalities formed towards the end of the Awami League rule for 'infrastructural inadequacy'.

The decision comes after local legislators and people complained that the municipalities did not have minimum personnel or logistic support, sources said.

The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives has already dissolved three municipalities Hazrabari at Jamalpur, Faridganj at Chandpur and Goila of Barisal

The decision to dissolve the Baufal municipality at Patuakhali of the ones formed by the AL govhas also been finalised and a notice in this regard will be issued soon. At present, there are 256 munici-

palities in three categories across

ernment Local people have complained SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

the country. The AL government

formed 125 new ones during its

tenure and the caretaker adminis-

commissioned six new municipali-

ties - Singair at Manikganj,

Sonagazi and Chhagalnaiya at

Birganj at Dinajpur and Shibganj at

adequate infrastructure, officials

claim. Steps have also been taken

towards further infrastructural

development in these municipali-

tions have been raised over viability

But, they claimed, serious ques-

These municipal bodies have

Feni, Monohardi at Narsinghdi,

The BNP government has so far

tration three

Bogra.

ties

110 die in Russian

Pry school teacher shot dead i n **Sylhet**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A primary school teacher was shot dead by unidentified assailants at village Meherpur under Golapganj upazila in the early hours of vester

Police and local people said the killers entered the house of Purnendu Bikash Raut, 32, headmaster of Dakshin Bagla Government Primary School by breaking open the door at about 2 am

They shot Purnendu in the chest and left the scene in a boat.

Purnendu was admitted to the nearby Fenchuganj upazila health complex and later shifted to MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at

Purnendu's body was handed over to his family in the afternoon. None was arrested in connection with the murder till filing of this report at 7 pm yesterday.

Malibagh incident: Judicial body starts functioning

UNB, Dhaka

The judicial inquiry commission on Malibagh incident began its functioning yesterday.

Justice Joynal Abedin visited the mosque-madrassah complex and talked to the people

The commission has requested witnesses and persons concerned to enlist their names at its office at Central Circuit House, Kakrail, on Thursday and Friday.

Four persons were killed in gunfire August 15 at Mosque-Madrassah complex constructed on these important areas: a disputed land.

The foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives and Pakistan arrived during the day yesterday.

Nepal's Prime Minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba, who is also foreign minister, will inaugurate the two-day 23rd SAARC Council of Ministers' meeting today

out official dialogue until what it calls "cross-border infiltration" is stopped. Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said Monday that there was still a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Correction

In our yesterday's issue, a

wrong news item was placed

under the headline "Hearing on

The information minister urged the media people to refrain from

ness in this regard.

publishing unethical report on killing and rape and pictures of mutilated bodies as it creates panic in the society.

He was exchanging views with editors and senior journalists of different newspapers, news agencies and the electronic media at the conference room of the information ministry

the editors suggested the minister to withdraw the obligation for procuring 50 percent of their total newsprint requirement from local producers, reactivate the press council

Apart from talking on the topic, SEE PAGE 11 COL 1 Microbus

chopper crash in Chechnya

Rebels down Mi-26?

AFP, Moscow

Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov yesterday rushed to the scene of a Russian military helicopter crash in Chechnya as the death toll climbed to 110 soldiers in the worst loss of the 35-month war.

down the Mi-26 transport helicopter on Monday, a claim rejected by Russian officials who cited engine trouble as a possible cause.

RTR state television quoted military sources as saying 17 of the 33 soldiers rescued from the flaming wreckage of the Mi-26 chopper were recovering in hospital in serious condition.

Vladimir Ustinov flew out of Moscow

Caucasus republic, underscoring the shock triggered by the incident on Russia's military. Top army officials say they are still refusing to believe Chechen claims and suspect that the Mi-26 helicopter - the world's largest and

for a rare visit to the separatist North

Describing a horrid scene at the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Chechen rebels said they shot known as The Cow - crashed into a minefield on the rebel capital Grozny's outskirts after running into engine trouble.

crash site where survivors piled out of the chopper only to be blown up by mines, the Kommersant business daily suggested the craft may have gone down because it was

Ivanov and Prosecutor General

The UN Earth Summit Negotiators girded themselves 100 world leaders, 50,000 delegates vesterday for the Earth Summit. grimly aware of the task ahead to save the Johannesburg super-PRETORIA gathering from sliding into rows, Diepsloo Billed as the largest conference Nature Reseve in history, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) SOUTH AFRICA aims at hauling the planet's environ-mental health out of a dizzying Sandton downward spiral and easing the Johannesburg Sandton Convention Centre Suikerbosrand Nature Reseve

Storm clouds gather

over Earth Summit

'Brackets' litter 71-page action plan

- a plan to halve, by 2015, the number of people without access to safe drinking water

- reducing or phasing out "environmentally harmful and tradedistorting subsidies", including farm products, and ensuring wider access for Third World goods in rich markets:

- a call to phase out energy subsidies and boost the global share of renewable energy sources to at least 15 per cent by 2010; slowing the planet's rate of

- how fast rich countries should move to boost levels of official development aid to 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP), a promise they made in Monterrey; - how to reduce the debt burden

X

Airport

Jo'burg Int'l

of very poor countries; - paragraphs touching on the

problems of globalisation, the rights of countries to bar imports on environmental arounds and encourage foreign inward investment in poor countries to meet environmental standards

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Bushra case begins". We regret the inadvertence and reprint the report. Hearing on **Bushra case** begins driver

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of Bushra murder case began Monday at the Third Special Court for Prevention of Women and Chiraren Repression, Dhaka, with the deposition of first prosecution witness and the victim's mother Mosammat Laila Islam

Judge Sarker Abul Mansur adjourned the hearing till August 26 following a time petition by the prosecution lawyers as the witness was feeling sick during the recording of her deposition.

In her deposition, Laila Islam said there was a refrigerator in Bushra's bedroom and accused Kader and others of his family used to keep water in it. On the night of the incident, Bushra was either reading or working on her computer. At that time. Kader knocked the door and asked her to keep it open for some time as he would take water from the refrigerator. So, Bushra kept the

door open. Later, Kader along with some others entered the room of and strangled her, the witness told the court. Accused Kader also refused to

give the key of Bushra's bedroom as her (Bushra's) grand mother wanted to see her dead body, Laila Islam Rushdania Bushra Islam alias

Phool, 18, a college student and daughter of a retired police officer, SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

The driver of a microbus carrying Taka one crore of Arab Bangladesh Bank (AB), Mymensingh branch, fled from Bogar Bazar on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at noon yesterday.

bank money

flees with

BSS, Mymensingh

The AB Bank authorities here told BSS correspondent that the microbus (Dhaka Metro Cha 11-4177) hired from Vanguard Services of Dhaka was carrying the money from the branch office to the head office at 11:30 am. Besides the driver, Vanguard Services official Nazir and security personnel Zahirul Islam were in the microbus, they said.

Driver Hanif stopped the vehicle on plea of mechanical fault at Bogar bazar under Bhaluka Upazila and asked Nazir and Zahir to push the microbus. As they pushed it, driver Hanif soon fled the place with the monev

Nazir and Zahir immediately rushed to the nearby Bhaluka thana and informed the police about the matter. Police super, Additional police supper and Manager of the AB Bank Branch rushed to the spot. Nazir and Zahir have been taken into custody

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About 50,000 people are expected to attend the August 26-September 4 meeting, from governments, aid agencies, environmental and corporate lobbyists and grassroots organisations. The last three days will be crowned by a summit to be attended by around 100 heads of state or

government, but US President George W Bush, on holiday in Texas, will be the big holdout.

ridicule or dud compromise.

plight of its two billion poorest.

So bitter has been the struggle to agree on the summit's core document that talks aimed at breaking the deadlock will be held behind closed doors on Saturday and Sunday ahead of the official summit.

The core of the summit is a 71page blueprint called the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), usually referred to in shorthand as the

action plan" But brackets - diplomatic code for disagreement - litter the text in

biodiversity loss by 2010;