

SNAPS

Life term for torturing wife for dowry

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**  
Judge Mahtab Uddin of the Women and Children Repression Preventive Tribunal on Sunday sentenced a man to life term for torturing his wife for dowry.  
Sheikh Sirajul Islam of Jordia village in the Sadar upazila had married Nurunnahar, daughter of Ibrahim Sardar of Bahadurpur village in Assassuni upazila in January last year.  
He used to torture his wife for dowry. On March 10 last year, beat his wife and sent her to her father's house to bring Tk 10,000. As she returned two days later without dowry, he beat her again. She filed a case.

Wife kills husband in Barisal

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**  
Amzad Hossain, 55, died on the spot after his wife Mumtaz Begum, 45, hit him with a piri (a low wooden seat used in rural areas) at Kalash Gram village in Kashipur upazila on Sunday.  
The incident took place amid a quarrel over use of micro credit loan. Mumtaz fled home after the incident. Being informed, police recovered the body in the evening.

Tk 5.5 lakh smuggled goods seized in Satkhira

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**  
Police seized smuggled accessories of electronic goods worth Tk 5,50,000 from Binerpota on the Satkhira-Khulna road and arrested two alleged smugglers on Sunday evening.  
The two are Moktul Hossain of Chandanpur village in Daudkandi upazila in Comilla and Helal Mia of Shahed Pota village in Narsingdi district.  
Acting on a tip off, police caught them and recovered the electronic parts from a passenger bus.

In-fighting in Manikganj BNP intensifies

Rival groups loyal Dr. Osman and Delwar sharpen nails

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj**  
Sunday's clashes between JCD factions have fuelled the BNP in-fighting in Makikganj.  
The three JCD leaders attacked at Manikganj Mohila College principal's room during the clashes have dropped their BA examination this year as they are fleeing homes after death threat by rivals, they told this correspondent yesterday.  
They are district JCD Joint Secretary Mostafizur Rahman Prince, Ohidul Islam Biswas Lotus and Binoy, all loyal to Tozammel Hoq Tota.  
They were attacked when they came out of the examination hall on Sunday.  
Their rival faction is backed by Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

Leaders of the Delwar-backed faction at a press conference at Manikganj Press Club Monday evening said those attacked on Sunday are "illegal toll collectors".  
The attack was part of protests against toll collectors. They said Tota is a former JCD leader. He is not a BNP leader they said and requested journalists not to depict him as a BNP leader.  
They said front ranking BNP leaders of the district including Delwar and Harunur Rashid Khan Monnu will meet in Dhaka soon, where future steps against the "so-called BNP leaders" will be discussed.  
The press conference was addressed by, among others, Abdul Wahab Khan, Jamilur Rashid Khan, Azad Hossain Khan, Ataur Rahman, Moksedur Rahman, SA Kabir Jinnah, Motaleb Hossain,

ASM Iqbal Hossain, Mahboob Hossain Mohabbat, Abdus Salam Badal, Atiar Rahman Nuru, Shamsul Hoq and Golam Mostafa.  
On the other hand, Tota, now at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment of injuries caused by rivals' attack, in a seven-page fax statement sent to the press club said he sought intervention of the BNP chief Khaleda Zia and the First Joint Secretary General to resolve the intra-party feud in Manikganj.  
Tota said the party chief took a correct decision by replacing Chief Whip Delwar Hossain with Dr. M Osman Faruk to head the party in Manikganj.  
"Those who attacked JCD leaders, Mohila College principal's room and journalists on Sunday, had attacked me earlier", he said.

Salma Sobhan's death condoled

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**  
A condolence meeting was held in memory of Barrister Salma Sobhan, an eminent Human Rights activist of the country, at the BRAC Training and Resource Centre here on Friday.  
Additional District Magistrate of Mymensingh Md Ramizan Ali addressed the meeting as chief guest while Dr Hamida Hossain was in the chair.  
Among others, BRAC officials Nurul Islam Sheikh, Mujibul Haque, Kanij Fatema and journalist Md Habibur Rahman Sheikh addressed the meeting.

JS seats for disabled demanded

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura**  
About 300 disabled people here formed a human chain on the premises of Magura Collectorate building on Monday.  
They were demanding 12 seats for the disabled in parliament.  
They submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commisisoner of Magura.  
Two non-governmental organisations (NGOs) named Action on Disability and Development (ADD) and Trinamul Protibondhi Sangathan (Organisation for the Disabled at the Grassroots level) jointly organised the programme.

Bomb blast at Gouramva police camp: One detained

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**  
Sub-Inspector Alim Hossain of Gouramva Police camp has filed FIR with Rampal thana on Friday for the bomb attack on Thursday night.  
Only one person named Yunus Munshi, 24, of Daulatpur in Khulna has been detained for questioning on Friday.  
Block raids are going on to nab the outlaws at Rampal and other neighbouring upazillas of Khulna and Bagerhat districts. None has so far been arrested.  
Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Abdul Aziz Sarker told this correspondent on Saturday that none had been injured in the bomb attack while eye-witnesses told that they saw three injured cops who had been profusely bleeding. They saw them while the cops had been on way to Bagerhat by three-wheeler vans.  
Police Superintendent (SP) Mesbahuddin said that the bombs had been thrown to create panic in the area. He also refused to tell the number of injured cops in the blast.  
Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Rampal thana Badruddoza Chowdhury told this correspondent that powerful bombs had been thrown on the police camp. Probably gunpowder had been used to make the bombs, he added.

Classical music confce at Ctg on Feb 12

**CU CORRESPONDENT**  
A two-day classical music conference will begin at the Chittagong Muslim Institute Hall on February 12.  
Sadarangana Sangskritik Parishad will organise the conference. Noted classical music exponent Wahidul Haque will open the conference where 16 artistes of the country will take part.

15 injured in clash at Ctg salt bed

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**  
At least 15 persons were injured, six of them critically bullet-injured, in a villagers' clash over control of a salt bed at Kutukkhali under Chhnua union in Banshkhali upazila on Monday, according to police and witnesses.  
Six of them have been admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.  
They are: Bazal Ahmad, Syed Ahmad, Mahbubur Rahman, Mozaher Hossain, Abul Kasem, and Abdus Shukur.

Air service from Saidpur to Nepal, Bhutan can promote trade, tourism Nilphamari Chamber suggests

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**  
Introduction of air service connecting Saidpur with Viratnagar airport in Nepal and Paro airport in Bhutan will increase trade and tourism in the region, Nilphamari Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said.  
This would also be compatible with the SAARC spirit, its president Sohel Parvez said in a statement on Monday.

He urged the government to develop Saidpur airport to open the route.  
Saidpur's air distance is about 200 kms from Viratnagar and 195 kms from Paro.  
Sohel said that the Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry president during his two-day visit to Saidpur in 2002 showed keen interest in the opening route. He had visited the airport and the railway installations and noted that goods air-

lifted to Saidpur could be transported to Mongla and Chittagong ports at lesser costs than in other routes, Sohel recalled in the statement.  
The Nepalese business leader also suggested modernisation of Saidpur airport, setting up of a warehouse and opening of container service.  
The Uttara Export Processing Zone could also benefit from an air route, Sohel said.

Regional leadership course on adult edn opens at Gazipur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A week-long Basic Leadership Course on Adult Education began at Rajendrapur BRAC Centre in Gazipur on Monday.  
Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASBAE) sponsored the course while it was hosted by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, says a press release.  
The course aims at developing and expanding leadership corps in the Asia/Pacific region which will advance the right to education for all and to have an access to learning opportunities throughout their lives focussing especially on the concerns and needs of the most marginalised groups.  
Thirty-five participants from Australia, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, PNG, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Samoa and Solomon Islands, besides

Bangladesh are participating in the course.  
Among others, ASBAE President Dr Usa Duongsaa, member of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Women's Resource Development, Indonesia Nani Zulmarani, ASBAE Programme Officer Nasreen Ahmed, and Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director Kazi Rafiqul Alam are the Resource Persons.  
The course offers an opportunity for cross-cultural exchange of adult education practices in the region, identifying issues to build the advocacy agenda for adult education, discussing strategies, methods and action plans for lobbying and monitoring, exchanging the gender analysis of adult education programme and developing an understanding of leadership skill that will nurture learning organisations for the promotion of adult education in the region.

Punishment to Manik Shah's killers demanded

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**  
Journalists brought out a procession at Gaibandha on Monday demanding arrest and punishment to the killers of prominent journalist Manik Shah of Khulna.  
Prior to the procession a protest meeting was held at the hall room of the club. It was presided over by the club president Gobinda Lal Das.  
The meeting was addressed, among others, by KM Rezaul Hoque of The Daily Star, Abu Zafar Sabu of Janakantha, Mofizul Huq Tara of Dainik Sangbad, Mosiur Rahman Khan of Dainik Ittefaq, Abedur Rahman Shawpon of Dainik Inqilab, Jaharul Kaiyme of Dainik Bhorer Kagoj, Abdus Samad of Dainik Ghagot, Nuruzzaman Prodhan of Dainik Paribesh, Dipok Kumar Pal of Dainik Janasanket and Abdul Mannan Chowdhury of Banglabazar.

8 hurt as Puja Mandap attacked at Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least eight persons were injured when a Puja Mandap (place of Hindu worship) adjacent to Begerhat stadium came under attack by a group of unidentified miscreants on Monday.  
The miscreants damaged the image of Svarashati there.  
The injured belonging to Matua community have been identified as Adhir Saha, 50, Sanjiv Saha, 18, Kartik, 18, Bishwa, 24, Ajit Saha, 16, Tapati Saha, 20, Durga Saha, 30 and Ganesh, 28.  
Police arrested two women who were with the attackers. They are

Duli Akhar, 25, daughter of fish trader Mostafa Molla and Akhima Begum, 25, wife of shrimp grower Chand Mia of Nagerbazar area of Bagerhat town.  
Bagerhat Deputy Commissioner Peus Costa, Police Superintendent Mesbahuddin and other senior officials visited the spot soon after the incident.  
Bable Halder Biplob, senior vice president of Bagerhat district unit of Chhatra Dal, ruling BNP's student front, filed a case naming six persons as accused.  
The accused include two arrested women. Four others are Akkas Shaikh, Moni, Tuhin and Babu.



PHOTO: STAR  
American Alumni Association President Dr Azizur Rahman Khan distributing blankets and warm clothes among cold affected poor people in Bogra recently.

Half-day hartal in Rangamati today

Bangalee students demand rights equal to tribesmen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Banglaee Chhatra Parishad (BCP), an organisation for Bangla speaking students in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), will enforce a half-day hartal in Rangamati today protesting discrimination between them and tribesmen.  
They are demanding rights equal to tribesmen in education, jobs and in government development programmes, and scrapping of the 1997 CHT peace accord.  
The BCP will also hold rallies in Kharachhari and Bandarban districts.  
The programmes were announced at a BCP rally at Rangamati last week.  
Earlier, it also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioner, containing its eight-point demand.  
To drum up support for today's programme, BCP held demonstrations and brought out processions

in Rangamati yesterday.  
BCP sources claimed that their programmes are backed by all political parties in the CHT.

Workshop on rights of disabled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A workshop for the disabled was held at Govindapur in Kulaura upazila recently.  
Organised by the Centre for Rehabilitation of Paralyse (CRP), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) working for the disabled, the workshop was aimed at organising the disabled and establishing their basic rights.  
CRP Director Dr AKM Mumin presided over the workshop. The Additional Deputy Commissioner, Moulvibazar, Md Tajul Islam was chief guest while the Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department, Musleh Uddin attended it as special guest.  
CRP Founder and Coordinator Vellory A Taylor delivered the address of welcome. Government officers, CRP officials, social workers, NGO representatives and representatives of the disabled spoke.  
CRP officials urged the able-bodied persons of the society to come forward in aid of the disabled.  
While addressing disabled people described their story of personal life and expressed their confidence that they would be able to keep their marks if they get the opportunities.



PHOTO: STAR  
Navy personnel seized a trawler with illegal Sundari trees from the Holta river in Barisal on Sunday.



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