NATIONAL

SNAPS

Ghorashal bridge opens in July

BSS, Narsingdi

Construction of the 412-metre long Ghorashal bridge on Shitalakha river on Tongi-Kaliganj-Ghorashal-Panchdona road is nearing completion and expected to be opened for traffic in July, according to Roads and Highays Department Executive Engineer Juniad

The bridge, constructed at a cost of Tk 49.97 crore, will eliminate ferry service in the route. The work began in 2001

Notorious Dacoits held in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Brahmanbaria police arrested alleged notorious dacoits Dulal Mia and Farid Mia from two places in the town Thursday night

They were wanted in several murder cases, police said. Police produced them before court,

which sent them to court. Three fishermen

kidnapped for

ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira Pirates abducted three fishermen from Rusho canal in the Sundarbans Wednesday night and demanded Tk three lakh ransom.

The victims are Akkas Ali, 45, Rashidul Islam, 34 and Abul Kalam, 48 of Kaikhali village in Shyamnagar upazila

Their relatives said the pirates later gave messages that the fishermen would be killed if the ransom is not paid within seven days.

BNP leader killed by 'rivals' in Kushtia: Five arrested OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A BNP leader also a former Union Parishad (UP) chairman who achieved notoriety in his area for involvement in underground activities was gunned down here on Wednesday.

The victim is Golam Mustafa alias Mukul, 38, president of Ambaria union BNP also exchairman of the same union.

Police told this correspondent

Baral dries up allegedly BNP 'extortionists' released after arrest swoop on because of regulator complainants

People of four affected districts for bridge to replace regulator

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

vent regulator was constructed at Due to unplanned construction of a Atghoria in Pabna, 46 kilometres regulator on the Baral river at downstream of Charghat, under the Charghat, the entire catchment area Baral Basin Development Project (BBDP) in 1995-1996 at a cost of Tk of the river covering four districts is facing an ecological disaster, local 45.196 million. The Baral, a tributary of Padma people and experts say.

upazila in Natore.

flood

One of the main objectives was

Though the project yielded no

to bring about 1,00,000 acres of

land under irrigation by controlling

benefit for over two million farmers

originating at Charghat, flows The Tk 418.6 million Baral through Paba, Charghat, Bagha Regulator built at the confluence of Baral and Padma rivers in 1984 at and Puthia upazilas in Rajshahi district; Natore Sadar, Bagatipara, Charghat has virtually become a Gurudaspur, Lalpur and Boraigram 'death trap' for farmers in 12 upazilas in Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna upazilas in Natore: Ishurdi and and Siraigani districts. Chatmohar upazilas in Pabna and Water Development Board Bhangura in Sirajganj district. (WDB) sources at Rajshahi and The river falls into the Atrai river at Chanchkoir in Gurudaspur

Natore say the three-vent regulator was constructed to keep the catchment area of the river flood-free and to preserve water for dry season

irrigation But the result has been just the reverse as the Baral has dried up due to the regulator.

To preserve water, another fivein the last two decades, the WDB officials continued to implement the project, scheduled to be completed next year

The project cost is also increasing. Land acquisition cost increased from Tk 28.5 million to Tk 48 million sources said.

Local people and experts sav the Baral Regulator has caused havoc with environment. The Baral, which earlier remained full of water throughout the year, now remains drv in almost all seasons. Even during monsoon, sufficient

water does not flow into the river through the regulator as the river has been silted at the source. Fishes have also disappeared as they can not move into the river, making hundreds of fishermen unemploved.

The Baral has also lost its navigability. Boats and ferry vessels, which earlier used to carry goods

and fuel from Baghabarighat and Raishahi, can not move now. Local people in Charghat said

the Baral river could be saved by dredging it at its confluence with the Padma

The regulator should be replaced by a bridge. Normal flow of river can be restored by pumping water from the Padma into the Baral, the say

Abdul Latif, a teacher and former chairman of Charghat UCCA, told this correspondent that WDB constructed the regulator ignoring protests by local people.

During protest, WDB authorities had assured the people of Charghat that regulator would not be constructed but the assurance was not kept. They ultimately constructed the regulator and turned a live river dead, he said

Two activists of ruling BNP, a day after release from police custody, ransacked houses and shops of the complainants in the city on Thursdav.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

In two other incidents, two ruling party activists were seriously injured in factional clashes over share of drug money and extending influence in the city.

SI Faisal Zaman of Barisal Kotwali thana had arrested BNP activists Rafiq, Rubel and Razon with two revolvers from BIP Colony in Chandmari area of the city on April 20 after ward BNP vice president and businessman Shamsul Hug filed an extortion case against them

They are members of notorious Mehdi Bahini, led by Mahbub Alam injured in a clash with party rivals on

But Rubel and Razon were release from police custody along with firearms on the following day, allegedly in exchange of bribe. Police lodged a case only against Rafig and sent him to jail.

Being released, Rubel and Razon along with their associates attacked and ransacked the houses and business enterprises of complainant Shamsul Hug and his relatives in the BIP Colony.

2 others hurt in clashes over drug money in Barisal

Mehdi. citv Jubo Dal secretary

Four shops were damaged in the attack.

Police visited the spot, but failed to arrest any of the attackers or give any satisfactory explanation about the release of Rubel and Razon.

Alam, an alleged member of notorious Suhad Bahini led by a Jubo Dal leader in the city, was seriously

Wednesday night. Alam was injured when attacked by rival Jubo Dal activists Al Amin. Shavamol, Roni, Joni and Shakil

when he along with two others were passing through the in Amanatgani area in a motorcycle. The two others escaped.

Nure Alam was rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in a critical condition

Another BNP activist-- Badsha was seriously injured when attacked by party rivals Maruf, Litu, Mahbub, Polu in the same night. Badsha was admitted at

In another incident, one Nure

SBMCH The intra-party clashes took place over share of drug money and spreading influence in the city, police and BNP sources said.

BNP activists Rubel (left), Rafiq and Rajon (right) at the police station after they were caught with the revolver. Rafiq was sent to jail. On release, the two others along with their accomplices swooped on the complainant, who is also a local BNP leader.

lice excesses" in case of any

targeted murder committed by

murder does not help detect killers".

mother Moyna Begum to bring some

medicine from outside. But poor

Moyna could not buy medicine for

tee with Dr Khandker Shamsuzzoha

as convenor to investigate the matter.

message to higher authority for

departmental action against the two

nurses, sources at the hospital said.

Our p

Civil Surgeon also sent a fax

with them and drove them out.

want of money.

the gate

"Indiscriminate arrest following a

terrorists.

he said

Woman driven out

of hospital becomes

250 blank passport books Former Shanti Bahini man **looted from Khulna office** killed by party activists Mohammod Khorshed and peon looters and arrested persons may

OUR CORRESPONDENT, be members of an organised gang. Rangamat

day.

"We are trying to detect if Tuesday's incident is linked to the A former member of now defunct recovery of 67 fake passport books Santi Bahini (armed wing of earlier", the OC said. Parbattya Chhagram Jana Sanghati Director General of Passport Samity) was hacked to death alleg-

Wahidul Huq and Deputy Director Nazmul Islam come from Dhaka and visited Khulna passport office. They held a close-door meeting with officials

When asked, Wahidul Huq refused to comment as the matter is under investigation.

some bullets and 'tokens' from the "We are closely watching some spot. staff of the passport office suspect-Police claimed that said Shant ing their link with fake passport racketeers", said the OC.

was a member of PCJSS' armed wing and that he was killed in a dispute over sharing toll money.

edly by fellow members at

Kugurmara in Naniarchar upazila

Tuesday night, police said yester-

body of Shanti Ranjan Chakma, 45,

Wednesday morning along with

Army personnel recovered the

Son of Bhubon Chandra Chakma of Kugurmara Asrayan Prokolpa, Shanti had returned to normal life by surrendering arms after the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts peace agreement between the PCJSS and the then government, police said.

The body was handed over to the victim's relatives after autopsv at Rangamati hospital morgue.

'I will crush terrorists and catch godfathers' **KMP** Acting Commissioner

tells newsmen STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Acting Police Commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) Shaikh Sajjad Ali has sought co-Tamijuddin Ahmed. operation from newsmen in his effort to "crush terrorists and contain crimes at any cost".

Addressing a press conference at the KMP headquarters on Thursday, he urged newsmen to help law enforcers to improve the

law and order situation termined to

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal Eleven police personnel here were ists and catch their godfathers found guilty of negligence of duties without fear or favour". Ali said. by an inquiry committee. The press conference was also

The one-member departmental addressed by, among others, DC inquiry committee headed by a sub-(South) Akbar Ali and DC (North) inspector of police submitted the report to the higher authorities on Shaikh Sajjad Ali assured April 22. that there would no more "po-

BODY RECOVERY

neglecting

their duty

11 cops found

The guilty police personnel include a havilder, two naeks and eight constables of police who were discharging their duties at the Barisal range office of the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police where body of a young workshop



Wednesday

Clerk Afazuddin, peon

Five suspects were arrested on

Sonadanga thana OC Nesar

Ahmed told this correspondent that

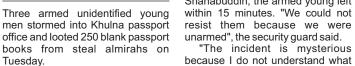
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna Shahabuddin, the armed young left

office and looted 250 blank passport books from steal almirahs on Tuesday.

Sonadanga thana, the young men came on a motorcycle at about 3:30 pm, snatched keys of steel almirahs from Assistant Director Roshanur Zaman, looted the blank passport 0121850) and sped away.

looters kept nine officials and staff confined in their rooms in the ground floor. They then went to the room of the Assistant Director and looted the passport books According to security guard

the incident happened near Gobindapur bridge on the Kushtia-Meherpur highway when the victim reached there at about 11.30 am from his village home at Nagarpara in Mirpur upazila. Riding a motorcycle he was going to Kushtia town. Ten armed men claiming themselves to be BNP activists waylaid him. As he stopped they shot him point blank and killed him on the spot. They left the place riding three motorcycles Cadres of the rival underground party might have gunned down him, apprehended police. Mukul, a close associate of jailed notorious outlaw Siraj in the region, was once a leader of the outlawed JSD Gano Bahini (JGB). He surrendered to the then Awami League (AL) government on July 23, 1999. He recently joined the ruling BNP and became the Ambaria union BNP president. He was an accused in several cases including murder, abduction and extortion, police said. Police recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsv Additional security forces were deployed in the area



According to an FIR lodged with they (looters) will do with blank passport books", said a senior official of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP). Messages have been sent to all border immigration

offices, he said. books (serial No W-0121601 to Shahabuddin and security guard According to clerk Afazuddin, the Khorshed were taken to custody and released after three hours' questioning.

No case was filed till filing of the report at 5.30:pm on Wednesday.

According to a report on Friday, five persons including the incumbent Chairman of Ambaria Union Parishad (UP) and the Kushtia unit Bangladesh UP Chairmen Forum secretary, Mashiur Rahman Milon were arrested on Thursday in connection with the incident.

PHOTO: STAR The Meghna devouring ready-for-harvest Boro paddy in Khakri (left) and State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shajahan (seated at the middle in the front row) seen on the dais at a rally demanding reconstruction of the dam to protect Kachia and Ilisha areas from erosion.

'Build dam, fulfill polls pledge' Erosion-hit Bhola people tell rally in presence of state minister

addressed by local body leaders.

before the monsoon starts in about

RCC blocks immediately to check

the erosion at different points

They demanded dumping of

two months from now.

claimed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

People of Ilisha and Kachia areas in Bhola Sadar held several demonstrations in the last one week demanding reconstruction of the embankment in the area to protect crops and homesteads from erosion by the Meghna.

On Tuesday, several thousand people brought out a procession and held a rally at Kachia Union Parishad office premises, where State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Mossain Shajahan was the chief guest.

The rally was presided over by Shahabuddin Ahmed, Chairman of

Kachia Union Parishad and on Thursday, it was seen that erosion has taken a serious turn in Gazippur, Kharki, Tolatoli and Murad Sobiullah The speakers said reconstruction of embankments was an elecareas in the two unions.

tion pledge of Prime Minister Abdul Ghanim 65, told this corre-Khaleda Zia. She made the pledge spondent that the Meghna devoured at a public meeting in Bhola before about 200 acres of land with readythe last parliamentary election, they for-harvest Boro paddy and made 100 families homeless in Khokri, They said about one lakh people Muradsofiullah and Gazipur villages in the last one week will be affected if the embankment in the two unions is not reconstructed

Another farmer, Abdur Rashid, 45, said about 10,000 cares of transplanted Amon lands have been damaged by tidal surge as there is no embankment

The embankment collapsed last

During a visit to the affected areas vear farmer killed by Indian miscreants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

A Bangladeshi farmer was killed by Indian miscreants on Tuesday for resisting them from grazing cows inside the Bangladeshi territory.

The victim is Lutfar Rahman, 24, son of Nur Muhammad of Diar Manik Chalk village who died at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) at midnight

The incident sparked tension as the Indian miscreants hacked him to death intruding into the Bangladesh territory at Godagari here.

On contact, the commanding officer of 10 Battalion of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Selim told this correspondent that the BDR already protested the killing, claimed compensation and demanded punitive measures against the killers through a letter sent to the Indian Border Security Force (BSF)

Locals disclosed that the BDR is indifferent to the increasing trend of the Indian miscreants to graze cows inside the Bangladesh territory at Diar Manik Chalk border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

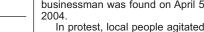
mother at gate

A woman, allegedly driven out of Gaibandha Modern Hospital, gave birth to baby at the hospital gate on Thursday

As the matter sparked public protest and led to a hem in of the Civil Surgeon's office, the Cvil Surgeon stand-released two nurses and formed a body to probe the matter.

Asia Begum, 30, wife of day labourer Dula Mia of Pabnapur village in Palashbari upazila, was admitted to the hospital for delivery. She was on bed No. 7 at the female ward.

Asia said as she felt labour pain on Thursday, nurses Hafiza Begum and Zulekha Khatun asked her



In protest, local people agitated, cordoned the DIG office and damaged its collapsible gate. They also organised protest procession, observed token strike and other programmes.

However, two night guards of Barisal divisional headquarters complex were not questioned during the investigation, locals alleged.

30 hurt in clash over trifle in **B**'baria

As Asia's condition deteriorated. OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria the nurses allegedly misbehaved

At least 30 people were injured in a The mother gave birth to a baby at clash between two groups at Dogorishar village in Ashugonj Civil Surgeon Dr Abdul Quddus upazila Tuesday night over flow of also formed a four-member commit-

ainwater through cropland. After a downpour, farmer Shafiqul Alam released the rainwater from his land. It flowed through the land of Shahjahan, allegedly damaging crops.

The two, having past records of enmity, started an altercation. Soon, their supporters joined, and at one stage, were locked in a clash. Some of them used lethal weapons.

Four of the injured were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital, police said.

The rivals also damaged each other's houses and then filed cases. police said

4 Nalchhity JCD men expelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Four JCD men were expelled and four others were warned for their 'involvement' in an attack on a newsman at Nalchhity in Jhalakati on April 16.

The expelled are Habibul Bashar Sabuj, publicity secretary of Nalchhity upazila JCD, and three activists Md Firoz. Maniruzzaman Shohag and Durlov Das.

A press release signed recently by Nalchhity upazila JCD senior vice president and general secretary Gazi Golam Kabir Litu and Jewe Kabir Mithu told that the decision was taken following an attack on Nalchhity Press Člub assistant secretary and Dainik Dinkal and regional Ajker Pariborton correspondent Emdadul Hug Milton on the Nalchhity Degree College campus.

upazila

Joypurhat Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission recently organised a rally to observe the 113th birth anniversary of Dr. V R Ambedkar, a leader of the low cast. It was participated by, among others, General Secretary of Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission Kanailal Rabidas.

Law and order slide in Kushtia Seven killed, five abducted in seven days

of Ambaria union BNP and the

union's former chairman Golam

ted by miscreants on April 17.

Daulatpur upazila

Mostafa Mukul, 38.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia Mirpur upazila

Seven murders, five incidents of abduction and four armed robberies took place in the since April 16.

On April 15, a rickshaw puller named Akched Ali, 40, was killed by he outlawed party cadres at Simulia village in Sadar

The same day an unidentified

youth aged about 23 was slaughtered by criminals.

Another unidentified young man aged about 32 was gunned down by the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party cadres (BCP) on April 16. Police could not identify the dead

till Friday On April 17, a robber was killed in a gunfight with police in Amla area of

their abduction. Of them the house-On April 18, a cadre of the outlawed wife was gangraped. Gano Bahini shat dead by the rival party

On April 20, schoolboy Miraj 12. cadres at Magura village in Sadar upazila. son of Moslemuddin of Mongolbaria village was abducted for ransom. The same day, 20-year-old

Farzul Islam was beaten to death Police rescued the boy and arrested by miscreants at Sonatola village in five of the abductors on Thursday. Another affluent farmer of On April 22, outlawed party cadres gunned down the president

Sanpukuria village was abducted by the outlaws for ransom on April 20. But police could not rescue the abducted one.

Another schoolgirl named Four persons including two Roshni Akther Nishi, 12, daughter of women were abducted within the Sahid Ali of the housing area in the town was abducted on April 22. A period. A schoolgirl named Rozina Khatun of Degreechar was abduccase was filed with Sadar thana, but police could not rescue the girl.

A housewife was abducted on Moreover, at least four armed robber April 18 in Daulatpur upazila. Police ies were committed in the district during rescued them on the next day of the period, police sources said.



Dr. Peter E. Albrich, Managing Director and CEO of Siemens Bangladesh Ltd. (middle), handed over medicines and other goods worth Tk 100,000 to Netrakona Civil Surgeon Dr. Skeikh Md. Ali Imam (extreme right) for the tornado affected people in the district at a simple ceremony recently. Aftab Mahmud Kurshid, Corporate Communications and Business Development Manager and Aminur Rashid, General manager, Consumer Products, were also present.