

SNAPS

55 pc marriage unregistered!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
A conference on creating social awareness about human right and repression on women was held at Kalapara upazila auditorium recently. It was organised jointly by the South Asia Partnership (SAP), Bangladesh and the Society for Development (SAD), a local NGO. The speakers included human rights activist Shamsul Alam, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Jashim Uddin, SAP officials Mahub Sobhan, Nur Hossain Khan, Abu Namila, Rani Datta and leaders of local bodies. A survey report presented at the meeting revealed that 55 per cent of the marriages that took place in the upazila last year were unregistered and 89 per cent of the women do not have any idea about inheritance law.

Acid thrown on 2 housewives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Two housewives were injured as acid was thrown on them at Purbo Hatempur village in Pathaughata upazila in Barguna district on Monday night. Hasina Begum, 30, wife of Belayet Fakir and her sister-in-law Kohinoor Begum, wife of Bachchu Fakir, have been admitted to Barguna Sadar Hospital in critical conditions. Quoting the victims' family, police said some villagers came to plant saplings on a disputed near their homestead. Being resisted, they threw acid, injuring the two women.

2 BCL leaders jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
The Special Tribunal of Barisal on Sunday sentenced two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders to suffer seven years rigorous imprisonment (RI) each for possessing illegal ammunition. They are Prodig Kumar and Limon Talukder, the then president and secretary of Agailjhara upazila BCL, arrested on September 11, 2001 while they were travelling by a motor-bike at Agailjhara. Police recovered illegal ammunition from them.

Chattagram Bidroho Dibash observed

CU CORRESPONDENT
The historic Chattagram Jubo Bidroho Dibash, youth revolt day, was observed in Chittagong in a befitting manner. Samajtantrik Biplobi Parishad (SBP) organised a two-day programme at JM Sen Hall in the city to mark the day. Veteran revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury, also a comrade of Mastarda Surya Sen opened the programme on Sunday afternoon. Discussion meetings were held to mark the occasion. Bangladesh Workers' Party Politburo member Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) president member Monzurul Ahsan Khan, economist Professor Anu Muhammad, National Democratic Front (NDF) leader Ali Haidar, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) convener Comrade Khalequzzaman, NDF central leader Comrade Shyamol Bhowmik and poet Arun Das Gupta took part in the discussions.

Compost fertiliser from garbage

20 tonnes to be produced monthly from 150 tonnes of garbage at Mymensingh town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
A project has been taken up to produce compost fertiliser from garbage dumped at Mymensingh town. Prodigpan, a local NGO, with the help of the municipal authorities, has taken up the programme titled Sustainable Garbage Management Pilot Project (SGMPP). Prodigpan has surveyed 17 slums in the district town. Families there have been advised to accumulate garbage and hard substances like tin, cans and wood pieces at selected spots. Sixteen vans and a trolley will collect the garbage from 16 dustbins. It has employed 13 volunteers to collect the garbage and seven workers at its workshop. Each van will collect garbage from 400 houses and carry those to the workshop. Some 5000 families in slum areas have been made aware of the programme. The areas are Kalbari Ferry Ghat, Char Para, Station Rail Gate, Mal Godam, Chamra Godam, KB Ismail Hossain Road, Kathgola Bazar, Kashor, RK Minion Road, Etakhola, Sanki Para, Akua SK

A little govt attention can do a lot

A newly set up Benarasi Polli by landless people in Gangachara needs funds to grow

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
They are landless but have changed their lot only in six years through hard labour. All in 750 families, except children, remain busy weaving costly and fashionable Benarasi Sai. Their Char Habu village, a Teesta shoal in remote Gangachara upzila, is now known as a Benaroshi Polli, thanks to the initiative by one Abdur Rahman.

Traders from Dhaka now flock to the village to buy Benarasi produced in about 350 handloom units. They had very hard days after the Teesta devoured all their cultivable lands. Working as day labourers was the only option. Many had to starve at times during lean cropping periods. It is different now. Many have tin-shed houses. Abdur Rahman had started life

as a worker at a Benaroshi factory in Mirpur in Dhaka fifteen years back. He also went to Iran and Pakistan to learn better weaving and knitting. He returned to his native Char Habu village in 1998 and set up three handlooms to produce Benaroshi. He set up four more in two years and encouraged others to set up handlooms at their houses. He also trained fellow villagers.



A teenager producing Benarasi Sari at Char Habu village.

PHOTO: STAR

Jalil will face public wrath after Apr 30

Patuakhali Jubo Dal council told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
Awami League (AL) Secretary General Abdul Jalil will face public wrath after April 30 wherever he moves in the country because of his party's undemocratic political activities, speakers said at a council of Patuakhali district Jubo Dal here yesterday. Jubo Dal is ruling BNP's youth front. People have rejected Jalil's call to unseat an elected government, they claimed at the council, held at the Shaheed Alauddin Childrens Park in the district town. Moshirur Rahman Khan presided

over the council while Commerce Minister Ataf Hossain Chowdhury was the chief guest. Central Jubo Dal President Barkat Ullah Bulu inaugurated it. The council was addressed by, among others, Jubo Dal secretary and lawmaker Moazzem Hossain Alal; its central leaders Khairul Alam Khokon, Jashimuddin, Fazlur Rahman, Enamul Haq, Kuddusur Rahman, Akhtaruzzan, Kazi Shahin and Patuakhali Municipality Chairman Mostaq Ahmed. Barkatullah Bulu told the council that people voted the Four Party Alliance government to power for five years. They will not tolerate if any "undemocratic force" tries to topple it in an undemocratic way and create anarchy in the country in the name politics and democracy. The Commerce Minister said BNP has confidence on people, who never commits any mistake. People want continuation of the democratic process, he said. They will come on streets and resist AL if it does any excess. The council formed a new district Jubo Dal committee headed by Mashirur Rahman Khan and Bakhtiar Uddin Murad as its president and secretary respectively.

HUMAUN KABIR MURDER CASE

One to die, 4 others of a family get life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday convicted five persons of a family, one of them with death sentence, in the sensational Humaur Kabir murder case. Judge Adul Motin gave death penalty to Sultan Howlader, 35 and life term to his brothers Md Dulal and Md Shahid and their parents Abdur Rouf Bepari and Lalul Bibi alias Pari Begum at a crowded court room. Dulal and Shahid are absconding. Humaur Kabir, a brilliant student of BM College, was murdered on April 3 in 2002 in a sequel to a family feud. Humaur Kabir was dragged out of his house at Bhabanipur village in Babuganj upazila and hacked. He died while being taken to hospital. Three others— Ismail Howlader, Jalal Master and Sattar Master— were also injured in the attack. Humaur Kabir's elder brother Abdul Jabbar filed a case with Babuganj police. SI Zakir Hossain submitted

charge sheet against the accused on September 10, 2002. Twenty-eight witnesses were examined in the trial. Talking to newsmen, family members of Humaur Kabir expressed satisfaction at the verdict but the accused said they will appeal to higher court against the verdict. **23 saw mills in Bhaluka closed** OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
Twenty-three saw mills located in Bhaluka forest area have been closed on April 22. The mills were sealed following joint raids conducted by the district administration and forest department in Boradhora, Batazore and Mollickbari areas of Bhaluka upazila. Magistrate Rezaul Islam and assistant forest conservator Muklesur Rahman led the raids. A total of 42,192 candidates sat for 1,100 seats in the nine-day Jahangirnagar University (JU) admission tests. The result will be published on May 22 in different national dailies while it will also be available on WWWJUNIV.EDU. The date for admission under freedom fighters' quota, players' quota, cultural activists' quota, tribal quota and ward quota will be announced after admission of students from merit list and waiting list. Meanwhile, 99 fake examinees were arrested during the tests. Fifteen of them were arrested on the last day of the tests on Monday while three students of Dhaka University were released after signing of bonds. They are Saimum Ahmed, a second year student of English department, Zillur Rahman of Islamic History and Culture department and Md Selim, a first year student of International Relations department.

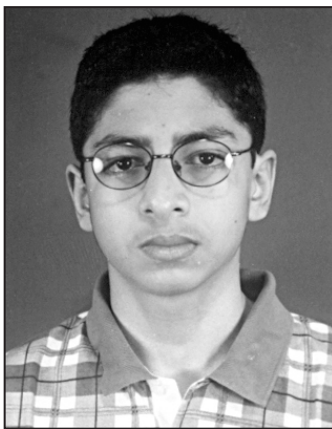
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BARISAL

90 pc accused freed for lack of evidence, weak probe

AKTER FARUK SHAHIN, Barisal
About 90 per cent of the accused in cases under the Women and Childrens Repression Prevention Act are acquitted because allegations against them can not be roved due to lack of evidence and "weak" police investigation. In many cases the allegations are found to be false, court sources said. Only 44 of the 1795 accused were punished under the Act by the Special Tribunal in the last two and half years since it started functioning here on January 1, 2002. Till March 31 this year, the Tribunal took up 1761 cases for trial.

Among those, 1104 cases were disposed of and 657 are under trial now. A total of 487 cases were lodged in 2002. Of those, 142 were disposed of in which 12 accused were punished and 548 acquitted. In 2003, over 608 cases were lodged and 360 of those were disposed of. Twenty-six accused were punished and 1082 were acquitted. This year, 155 cases were lodged till March 31, of which 666 were disposed of. Six accused were punished and 149 were released after trial. When contacted, Special Public Prosecutor Mohsin Montu of the

Tribunal said allegations could not be proved because the cases were false or investigations were week. Nurul Amin, OC of Barisal Kotwali thana, when contacted said, "We make investigation reports on the basis of statements by complainants and witnesses. "We give final report when the allegation can not be proved". Most of the cases prove false. Enmity is behind many cases. On other hand, a large number of cases involved young men and girls who fled homes due to affair. Their parents filed cases after they fled homes, the OC said.



Rafi gets scholarship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Syed Sami-ul-Haque (Rafi) secured fourth place on the combined merit list in the talent pool at Junior Scholarship Examination 2003 from Udayan High School in Barisal. Rafi, son of Sayeda Shamima Haque and Engineer Syed Anowarul Haque of Bangladesh Bank, Barisal, is now a Class IX student at Residential Model College in Dhaka. He is the grandson of Anowara Mahbub and late Sayed Mahbul Haque, a valiant freedom fighter and leading businessman in Magura.

Tk 22 BANK MONEY LOOT
Tetli UP chairman gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
A Union Parishad (UP) chairman arrested in connection with an incident of bank microbus loot was granted bail on Sunday. Tetli UP chairman Osman Ali under South Sumra thana was released on bail from Sylhet central Jail after being refused twice from the district Judge court just a few days back. He was caught in a police raid from his village home within hours of loot of 22 lakh taka from a microbus of Pubali Bank's (PB) Kodomtoli branch at Humayun Rashid Square on February 22. The micro was carrying 50 lakh taka to the bank's corporate branch when armed miscreants looted a gunny bag containing 22 lakh taka at gunpoint. Police recovered 5 lakh taka and an SMG from Osman's possession immediately after the incident. Osman along with his two brothers and some others were accused in the case. His brothers absconded, police said.

Planned shrimp enclosure protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
A tense situation is prevailing as hundreds of land-owning farmers are protesting an attempt by some influential people to turn about 2000 hectares of cropland into shrimp enclosures in Char Emanson, Char Haridrakhali, Fulkhali and Vangun villages Galachipa upazila. The farmers held a big protest rally at Vangun High School ground on Thursday. About 40 musclemen allegedly engaged by the influentials moved in the on motorcycles when the rally was going on, creating tension. Since then, the farmers have been holding small gatherings at different places in the area. When contacted, the Galachipa Uapzila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) told this correspondent that the Upazila Magistrate has given an order to stop all activities for the planned shrimp enclosures.



An example of honesty ... Fishermen Binod Chandra Das and Suranjana Chandra Das handing over the firearm they netted while fishing in the Meghna near Ashuganj ferry terminal. Brahmanbaria Additional Police Superintendent Jahangi Hossain received the firearm at the district police headquarter recently. A policemen on duty at a launch had lost the firearm during a dacoity in the vessel about two months back.

PHOTO: STAR