# NATIONAL

#### 5 commit suicide in two days

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhil** 

Five persons including a female primary school teacher committed suicide by taking poison in last two days. Quoting local people police said, Jesmin Sultana Ratna, 20, danghter of Ashanullah of village Koil in Kalaroa upazila, Sajeda Khatun, 25, a primary school teacher and wife of Sahidur Rahman of Baladanga and Durga Pada Ghosh, 65, of Jhhowdanga in Sadar upazila committed suicide on May

Two others, Rejaul Islam, 35, of village Bahera in Debhata upazila and Mizanur Rahman, 30, son of Matiar Rahman of Firgri village in Sadar upazila committed suicide on May 26. Family troubles were the cause of suicide, according to police

#### Juba Dal leader sued for kidnapping schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Dhanut Upazila General Secretary of Juba Dal, Aminul Islam, has been charged for kidnapping a 13 year-old schoolgirl.

Police said, Shahadat Hossain Mintu father of the victim, filed a kidnap case with Dhunat thana accusing Aminul Islam and some of his accomplices.

But police could not arrest any of the accused or rescued the girl till yesterday. In the case, Shahadat Hossain of Rahbal village in Kazipur upazila in Sirajgonj district alleged that, his daughter, a student of class seven at Dhunat

Pilot School, stayed at her uncle's house Aminul and his accomplices kidnapped her on May 23.

### RAB nabs 2 in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) here arrested two criminals with fire arms and recovered 2,500 bottles of Phensidyl syrup from the city on Wednesday.

A 20-member RAB patrol team in a raid arrested a criminal with a Germanymade pistol loaded with six rounds of bullets from Kadamtoli bus terminal in Double Mooring thana

They are Saju Dey, 30 and Babul Mia. rrested with German made pistols.

#### Rapists of newly wed girl yet to be nabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT.

Rapists of a newly married girl could not be arrested three days after filing of a case by the victim.

The 18 year-old girl (name not mentioned), daughter of one Raiab Ali of Beltali Dolapara village in Khoksabari union in Nilphamari Sadar, was married to Asaduzzaman, son of Shahabuddin of Angarpara village in Khansama upazila in Dinajpur on April 18.

The couple came to Gorgram village in Nilphamari Sadar on May 10 to visit a relative

On the same might, a some miscreants allegedly led by Enamul, son of Motaleb Hossen of Beltali Dolapara, kidnapped her at gun point. They confined her in a house for 15 days and gangraped, her.

She escaped from the house on Tuesday, went to Nilphamari thana and filed a case accusing four persons including Enamul.

The Nilphamari thana OC when contacted said they are trying to nab the culprits.

### Memo to KU VC for removal of Prof Ali Naki

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna University (KU) students have demanded immediate removal of the head of Architecture discipline Prof Ali Naki for 'inciting unrest on the campus.

According to the students, he was responsible for premature death of 13 students of Khulna University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in Katka trag-

In a memorandum to vice chancellor (VC) Prof Dr A Kadir Bhuiyan on Wednesday the students of Architecture discipline have accused Prof Ali Naki of vitiating the academic atmosphere of the university by inviting gangsters to 'disgrace the vice chancellor'. They further alleged that as head of Architecture discipline Prof Ali Naki always 'blackmailed the students.'

While accepting the memorandum the VC assured the students that he would 'properly deal' with the

## Fungal infection from Boro paddy blinds eyes

Rush of patients at RMCH, clinics: Eyes of at least 5 patients being operated upon daily since beginning of harvest, some removed

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A fungal infection from Boro paddy that blinds eye within days has created a panic among rural people and alarmed doctors at the district

An eye is infected with the fungus called Asperagellus when it comes in contact with ripe Boro paddy. A severe pain and swelling starts immediately. If proper treatment is not done within three-four days, the cornea is damaged and the eye has

to be removed because the infection

spreads to the other eve also, doctors

at Rangpur Medical College Hospital

(RMCH) and at private clinics told this

operation, is the only treatment, said

eye surgeon Dr GKM Afzal Khan at

paddy during summer due to exces-

sive humidity in the air, he said. He

did not rule out the possibility when

Tarsorrhaphy, a kind of surgical

The fungus grows on ripe Boro

correspondent.

RMCH on Thursday.

asked the fungus could grow from use of powerful insecticides.

A large number of farmers and labourers are coming to RMCH and other hospitals in the town with eye infection every day.

At least five patients are being admitted to the RMCH eye ward daily since the Boro harvest began this year, Dr Afzal Khan said. Many others are being treated.

"We faced such cases once five years back, but the number this year

Some of the patients with serious eye infection are (from left) Moksed of Doudpur village and Taslim of Deodolea in

Gaibandha, Milon of Mohideb in Kurigram, Abdur Rahman of Alalerchar in Rangpur, Rakib of Pandul in Kurugram and

Harun-or-Rashid of Sundarganj in Gaibandha. They are undergoing treatment at RMCH and other hospitals in

"Medicine and ointment may

infected eye but in the long run

two eyes (of an infected person)

become blind if operation is not

and Executive Director of Community

(CECRC) at Rangpur town said,

"Eyes of at least seven patients were

operation upon every day at the

Shishu Naittam, a children's organisation at Brahmanbaria town, took up a week-long programme to teach art and

Manikganj poura by-polls'outlaws' for toll

fight will be mainly between Four

Hossain Khan and Awami League

leader Ramial Ali, both former

Juba League, AL's youth front. Nasir

Uddin Ahammed is vice president of

district Jubo Dal, youth front of

Local BNP lawmaker Horunor

Returning Officer Additional

Rashid Khan Munno is campaigning

District Magistrate Kazi Meraj

Hossain when contacted said

adequate preparations have been taken to ensure free and fair polling

them are male and 17096 female,

are expected to exercise their

A total of 34674 voters, 17,578 of

for Belavet Hossain Khan.

in all the 19 centres.

Sudev Saha is a central leader of

municipal chairmen.

rulina BNP.

Party Alliance candidate Belayet

painting to children on the occasion of poet Nazrul's 105th birth anniversary.

Hectic campaign on for

hospital in the last fifteen days".

Eye Care and Research Centre

Dr Khairul Islam, an eye surgeon

temporarily cure a less

done", he said.

"The rush of patients is really alarming."

He said most of the patients come at a stage when it is too late to be cured with medicine

Moreover, wrong diagnosis by village doctors leads to a critical situation. They usually prescribe antibiotic and steroid eyedrops. The condition deteriorates within hours after use of these eyedrops.

"No alternative to operation is left then." Dr Islam said.

Sohag, 8, son of Aftabuzzaman of

Pandul village in Ulipur upzila in

Kurigram district, was admitted to

RMCH seven days back. Doctors

removed his right eye as the cornea

was "totally damaged" by fungal

infection after a Boro paddy acciden-

Taslim, 32, son of late Montaz Ali

Sunderganj upzila in Gibandha

district. underwent operation on the

left eve at a private clinic on

Wednesday. He said he felt pain and

tally fell on it.

of Deodoba in

the eye started swelling soon after a Boro paddy hit it during thrashing after harvest. He could not see with that eye since then.

Harun-or-Rashid, 14, an SSC examinee from Deodoba in Sunderganj upzila in Gibandha, said a Boro paddy fell on his left eye on Saturday last when some labourers were thrashing paddy on the yard He felt severe

pain. He went to a local doctor who referred him to RMCH. An eye surgeon operated upon his eye

on Monday at a private clinic. Milon, 13, came to RMCH from Mohideb village in Bhrungamari ir Kurigram district. His father Samad told this correspondent that doctors suggested operation on his right eye But he is so poor to afford it.

Rakib, 7, son of Anisur Rahman of

Gangachara upzila was admitted to the RMCH eye ward on Wednesday. His mother Lizu Begum said some Boro plants hit his eyes eight days back. They did not care. Next day, Rakib felt pain in the eyes. Doctors have suggested operation, she said. "My husband is a poor day labourer. How can I manage the cost?" she lamented.

Doctors said a large number of eye patients are coming from different areas of Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gibandha and Nilphamari districts.

When contacted, Ainul Hauge, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Rangpur said he has no information about such infection from Boro



concluded at Syedpur Filaria

Ten Japanese volunteers discussed treatment facilities with nurses at the hospital and steps for eliminating the disease from the Takasi Sakamoto, Resident

Representative of JAICA (Japan International Co-operation Agency) inaugurated the workshop as chief uest. Nilphamari Civil Nazrul Islam, health ministry Deputy Secretary Md Abdul Haq and other officials from Dhaka attended the workshop. Founder of the hospital. Dr Moazzem Hossen, gave a brief description on treatment facilities at the hospital

Speaking on the occasion, Takasi Sakamoto expressed his concern at the spread of Failaria in northern part of the country. He appreciated the facilities at the hospital and promised more Japanese assistance for its devel-

#### CU teachers' White Panel divided

**CU CORRESPONDENT** 

'White panel', a united platform of the ruling BNP and Jamat-e-Islami backed teachers in Chittagong University (CU) has been divided, at

Teachers belonging to BNP floated another panel titled 'Teachers' Society Inspired by the Ideology of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on Tuesday. The decision was adopted at a two-hour meeting held at the Social Science Faculty on the campus. Ex-Pro VC professor M Badiul Alam who chaired the meeting has become the forum's new presi

The BNP backed teachers were being deprived of various facilities by the university authorities for a long time which triggered formation of a new panel, deserting teachers

alleged.

President of the new panel Prof M Badiul Alam told journalists that the new panel would independently contest in elections of different CU

### Arrested accused dies

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**, B'baria

One person, arrested in a woman repression case, died while being

Nabinagar thana police arrested Kuddus Mia, 56, Shahjahan Mia, 55 and Manik Mia, 20, from Valachang village on Thursday.

Kuddus Mia died on way while



A farmer at Sikanderpur village using a Ferromon Trap at a brinjal field.

## A village of environment conscious farmers

Use of Ferroman Trap instead of harmful pesticide increases yield at lesser cost, protects environment

HOSSAIN SERAJ, back from Sikandarpur (Jessore)

MAGURA: Farmers in Sikandarpur village in Jessore are being doubly benefited. They are earning more money by producing vegetables at lesser costs while protecting the environment also.

They use Ferromon Trap, a simple device innovated by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), to kill insects instead of applying insecticides, harmful for the environment.

Dr Nurul Alam, co-ordinator of BARI's Entomology Department supervises of the great efforts of the

According to FAO (UN Food and Agricultural Organisation), Jessore was one of the three regions in Bangladesh where pesticides were used excessively earlier. Pesticides were used in brinjal fields up to 80 times in a season,

according to officials of Bagherpara upazila Agriculture Extension Department (AED). But the scene is different now.

They do not use pesticide. "It is a revolution", said Mohammad Alauddin, a Block

Supervisor of AED while talking to

this correspondent last week. "This (use of Ferromon Trap) increases yield as the trap also kills pesticide-resistant insects," Alauddin said.

The tool is very much userfriendly and involves virtually no cost compared to that for pesticide. The trap is made with a plastic pot. A medicine named 'Sex-

erromon' is kept inside it. "The smell of the medicine attracts pests and insects. They fly into it and die within seconds," said Laxman Chandra, president of Krishi Prajukti Bastabayan Kendra (KPBK), a centre for application of agriculture technology.

Union Parishad member and farmer Anisul Islam said pesticides worth at least Tk 400 were needed to control pest attack on brinials on one bigha land, he said. Farmers are now saving the amount. BARI distributed one thousand

Ferromon Traps this year among brinjal cultivators free of cost to popularise the unique method. KPBK members said the method

is being used on all vegetable fields at Sikandarpur village. Magura AED Deputy Director

Osiul Islam when contacted said, BARI's new method will play a pioneering role in protecting environment while increasing the yield.

## Postman relieved for 'snail mail'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** 

A news item headlined 'Snail Mail naeea, published in the Dally Star on Thursday has stirred the Postal Department.

A poor postman appointed on master role basis faced the departmental wrath for an unusual delay of over 34 months to reach a letter to its destination at Nilnhamari from Bangla Hili in Dinajpur district.

The ill-fated postman, Bipul

Kumar Das working on master roll basis, was relieved of his duties by the Postal department in a bid to save face on Thursday, the date of publication of the news Two separate inquiry commit-

tees were formed in Nilphamari and Dinajpur to investigate into the incident by the deputy postmaster general in Rangpur and Dinajpur. But it is amazing that the aforesaid postman was relieved before submission of the investigation

A source in the postal department told The Daily Star it is not possible to find out the exact reason of the delay as no register is maintained for ordinary letters. According to postal rule, the conif found responsible for delay or missing of any registered letter. Postal Inspector Ambar Ali who is also investigation officer of the incident told this correspondent that the delay might be due to negligence of the Railway Mail Service (RMS). The complainant and owner of Chowdhury Rice Mills, Rashidul Islam Chowdhury

Biplab Kumar Das, post master of Nilphamari Head Post Office already sent a letter to the Deputy Post Master General of Rangpur on Thursday stating that there was no delay in delivering the letter to the addressee here. Amida Begum sent a letter from

also echoed his voice.

Bangla Hili to her father Asir Uddin Morol at Nilphamari on July13 2001. The letter was delivered at Nilphamari on May 24, 2004 after death of the recipient 15 months

### 2 killed as bus rams into shops

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisa** 

Two persons were killed and 18 injured when a bus rammed into a cluster of shops and hit autotempos and rickshaw vans at Rahamatpur bus stand near Barisal air port on Fatally injured Krishnakanta Das

50, headmaster of Hijalkati Government Primary School in Babuganj and Dilip Das, 40, from the same area died while being taken to Nine of the injured were admitted

to Barisal Sher-e- Bangla Medical College Hospital in critical conditions. hospital sources said.

They are tempo drivers Dulala and Majibur, bus counter clerk Jahangir, shopkeeper Shaheb Ali, bus passenger Khalek and pedestrians Mohsin, Delwar, Yunus and Helala.

Others were treated at Babugan Upazila Health Complex.

Eyewitness and police said, the driver of the Barisal bound bus from Babuganj lost control while trying to avoid a collision with a bus of Sakura Paribahon coming to Barisal from Dhaka.

At least four rickshaw vans, two autotempos and eight shops were

# 5x3

#### Arsenic: 2 lakh in Matlab at risk above 500-microgramin per litre of STAFF CORRESPONDENT above five years of age have been

Over two lakh people of Matlab upazila in Chandpur district are at a high risk of arsenic poisoning as waters of 60 percent tube-wells in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A frenetic polls campaign is going on

for the post of Manikgani municipal-

ity chairman. The by-election will be

The post fell vacant following

removal of Md Mosharaf Hossain

Babul after a no-confidence by

commissions on September 3 last

year. He was elected chairman on

Five candidates are in the race.

They are Four Party Alliance candi-

date Belavet Hossain Khan

(umbreall symbol). Awami League

candidate Romial Ali (candle).

Sudev Saha (bullouck cart). Nasir

Uddin Ahammed (byecycle), Uzzal

Ahmed (wheel) and Kazi Rayhan

this corespondent talked to said the

Political party men and people

Uddin Tuku (wall clock).

held on May 31.

January 26, 2002.

the area are contaminated. This was revealed by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bandladesh (ICDDR.B) following a

survey conducted in 2002-'03. According to the survey, 504 have been confirmed to be arsenic affected through skin manifestation. One lakh and 66 thousand people

diagnosed from two lakh and 20 thousand people under surveillance in 142 villages, ICDDR, B senior scientist Dr Mohammad Yunus told this correspondent. Water samples of 12,000 tube-

wells in the affected area have been tested and waters of 7.000 tubecontained above 50microgram of arsenic per litre of water. Head of Matlab Health Research Programme Dr Yunus disclosed this.

About 1,260 tube-wells are arsenic contaminated which goes water while about 60 percent of tube-wells exceeded the permissi-The World Health Organisation

Mason killed by

Maksud Bahini chief

slaughtered by rivals

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal** 

A mason was beaten to death alleg-

edly by Sarbaharas at Tilerchar in

Babuganj for refusing to pay Tk 10,000

Police said Sultan, 26, son of Madon

Howlader of Santoshpur in Mehendigani

upazila, was picked up from Sarikal area

n Goumadi allegedly by members of Zia

Group as he informed the local Union

Parishad chairman that the outlaws

him to Babuganj Upazila Health

He died on way as police were taking

in another incident, Maksud Alam, 45,

a notorious dacoit from Maheshkhali in

Cox's Bazar and chief of Maksud Bahibi,

was slaughtered allegedly by opponents belonging to Siddik Bahini at Natun Hat

Bazar in Char Samaia union in Bhola

Sadarupazila Wednesdaynight

demanded toll from him.

litre of water. ICDDR, B has requested the inhabitants of Matlab to use surface water which includes pond water and rainwater. The international

(WHO) has fixed a recommended value of 0.01 miligram arsenic per

organisation is also subsidising the villagers to use pond-sand filter for

taken to police station.

being taken to thana, police said.