

## SNAPS

## AL leader killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Potitala upazila Awami League chairperson Shefali Akhter Banu, 60, was killed in the early hours of Friday at her house in Choudha Chandpatro village in Naogaon.

Police suspected involvement of caretaker Masud in the killing. "Masud's blood-stained clothes were found at the house," police said.

Shefali Akhter's son Dr Jummu said he found the body of his mother on the veranda of their house when he returned home from Dhaka at dead of night.

Dr Jummu said he talked to his mother Friday night and told her that he was coming home. "I will wait for you till you come," the mother had told her son over mobile phone.

Dr Jummu filed a case with Potitala police.

## UPDF man abducted

by PCJSS

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A supporter of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) was abducted allegedly by activists belonging to Parbatta Chittagong Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) from Shapmara village in Naniarchar upazila Friday night, a UPDF press release said here yesterday.

The victim is Jiotirindra Chakma, 50. Some 25 to 30 armed youths raided the village and took picked up Jiotirindra at gunpoint from his house, the release signalled by Amrita Lal Chamra said.

UPDF opposes the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Agreement, signed by PCJSS with the government in 1997.

## Proshika chief's release demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Different socio-cultural and professional organisations in Manikganj in a joint statement have demanded release of Proshika President Quazi Faruque Ahamed and alleged police harassment of its employees.

Signatories to the statement include district Bar Association President Md Meheruddin, its Secretary Khililur Rahman, Sangskritik Oikya Jote Convener Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim, Bangla desh College Biswabidyalay Shikkhak Samity President Principal Azharul Islam Arju, Manikganj Bazar Banik Samity President Gazi Khairul Huda Faruque, Provost Sangha President Advocate Dipak Kumar Ghosh, Secretary Advocate Nazrul Islam Badsha, Khetra Ghar Secretary Meer Moksedul Alam, Udcchi Secretary Prodip Kumar, Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity Manikganj district unit Secretary Kashi Nath Sarker, Manab Kalyan Sangstha President Biplob Chakrabarty, its Secretary Motiur Rahman, former president of Manikganj Press Club Suruz Khan, former president of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity Sabbirul Islam and Manikganj ADAB President Abdul Majid.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi University authorities has awarded the Habibur Rahman Hall construction work involving about Tk three crore to the fourth lowest bidder, allegedly to favour a ruling party man.

Prof Abu Daud Hossain, a member of the tender committee and Dean of Arts Faculty resigned protesting "irregularities in the process".

"The university that is facing Tk 20 lakh deficit budget for last several years will suffer a loss of Tk nine lakh for favouring the BNP leader", said a highly placed official at RU.

Seven construction companies dropped schedules within June 10, the last date for bidding.

Among them a firm from Gaibandha was the lowest bidder proposing completion of the Tk 2.78 crore work at Tk 2.24 crore.

The second lowest bid was Tk 2.24 and the third Tk 2.25 crore, sources said.

The company given the work was in the fourth position with Tk 2.33 crore.

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AKTER FARUK SHAHIN, Barisal

the authorities concerned to foil the attempt by the vested quarter to destroy a valuable heritage in the city.

The building stands on a 0.708 acres of land (Mouza No 49, Khaitan No-111 and Dag No-752).

According to archaeology department officials here, the department declared the building as a "preserved archeological wealth" under Section 10 of the Antiquities Act 14 of 1968 through a circular of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs on January 2, 2003.

It was also notified through a gazette notification (no 14 of 2004) on April 1, this year.

The offices of the Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner of Barisal and other divisional, district and departmental officials were also informed of the ministry's decision through letter on May 11 (Memorandum No. Prot. No.: / Bari: 9/4/2002/976). Issuance of the letter was followed by a meeting of high officials, held on May 12, 2004.

After that letter and the meeting, another letter (Memorandum No. Gha-1/2/83-98-akash/112(6) was sent by the regional office of the archaeology department to the officials concerned on June 11, this year.

Meanwhile, the vested quarter, in collaboration with some unscrupulous officials and employees of the local PWD and the administration started a con-

spiracy to float tender to demolish the building and grab the land, the sources claimed. Even the name of Barisal City Corporation was used in the purpose, they claimed.

The building is in the prime city area where offices of the Deputy Commissioner, Police Superintendent, Judge Court and City Corporation are located.

Altaf Hossain, head mason of



The old collectorate building in Barisal city (left) and the notice of the Department of Archaeology on its wall not to harm it in any way (right).

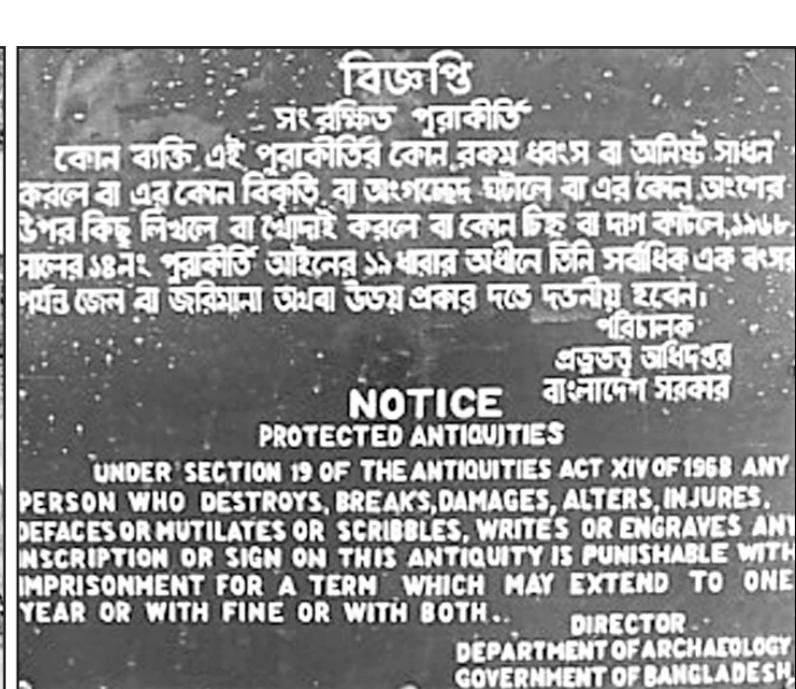


PHOTO: STAR

about the work archeological department is doing" one official said.

Barisal Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Abdul Kalam said he did not order to stop the renovation work. "PWD said the building is risky and so I suggested for doing work on the ground floor first", he told this correspondent yesterday.

## RU DORMITORIES

## Ruling party men get work, lowest bids ignored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

It was gathered that an influential BNP leader had dropped the schedule on behalf of the company.

RU authorities have also ordered re-tender of the Tk 20 lakh electrical work at Zia Hall. In the first tender, the lowest bidder proposed to do the work at Tk 19.94 lakh, sources claimed.

The Tk 20 lakh electrical works at Habibur Rahman Hall was later given to a firm owned by a JCD leader at Tk 21 lakh, said the sources.

The tender committee president and RU Treasurer talking to newsmen denied any "political influence" and said the decisions on awarding works were taken "unanimously by all committee members".

Earlier, Additional District Magistrate of Kishoreganj Mohammad Momraj Mia probed the matter on June 16 but nothing was made public about the findings.

RU Chief Engineer Abdur Rahim denied talking on the ground, but admitted that some of the authorities' decisions "went against each other".

The second lowest bid was Tk 2.24 and the third Tk 2.25 crore, sources said.

The company given the work was in the fourth position with Tk 2.33 crore.

### Alleged attempted sexual abuse: Victim testifies to AIG

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Kishoreganj

**NETRAKONA:** AIG Prison (development) Abdul Mannan, probing the allegation of attempted sexual harassment of a female visitor to Kishoreganj jail by the jailer, recorded testimony of the victim on Thursday.

The female visitor had complained that the jailer tried to harass her when he went to the jail on June 3 to see her husband, put behind bars in an arms case.

The AIG recorded her testimony at the office of the jailer. The jailer was reportedly present at the college so far did not find their names on the MPO list.

When asked later, the AIG told newsmen that the probe would be made known later.

The woman said she told the AIG how the jailer tried to harass her.

Earlier, Additional District Magistrate of Kishoreganj Mohammad Momraj Mia probed the matter on June 16 but nothing was made public about the findings.

Some local people, guardians and students of the college said that they never saw the principal and teachers now on the MPO list.

### Who are these 'ghost' teachers?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Fourteen teachers of Dammash College in Bagmara upazila have sued the local ruling party lawmaker Abu Hena as they did not find their names on the government MPO (pay order) list.

Abu Hena MP is the chairman of the college governing body. The teachers along with the principal, SM Nazrul Islam, are in the college since it was set up in 1999, they claimed while talking to this correspondent here on Saturday.

The college was enlisted under MPO on June 3, but mysteriously, the teachers who were teaching at the college so far did not find their names on the MPO list.

The 14 teachers then filed a case with the court of a Senior Assistant Judge here. The education secretary, director of Education Directorate and the new teachers on the PMO list have also been charged in the case.

Gama's father Rafiqul Islam Talukder filed a case with Naldanga thana accusing 16 AL men included Firoz on February 8.

Police arrested five suspected outlaws including Firoz's brother SM Fazlul Haq.

Seven of the charged persons including Firoz obtained bail from the High Court.

## NATORE JUBO DAL LEADER MURDER AL men among 20 charged sheeted

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Naldanga police on Saturday submitted charge sheet against 20 people included Naldanga thana Awami League Secretary SM Firoz to the Sadar upazila magistrate court in connection with the murder of Jubo Dal leader Sabir Ahmed Gama, nephew of Deputy Minister for land Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu.

SI Sahanul Bari submitted the charge that also includes Firoz's brother Fazlul Haq and some other AL activists.

Gama was murdered on February 7. Outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBPC) in telephone calls to Rajshahi Press Club and leaflets distributed in the area had claimed responsibility for the murder.

Gama's father Rafiqul Islam Talukder filed a case with Naldanga thana accusing 16 AL men included Firoz on February 8.

But Foyes Uddin claimed that, asked by the investigation officer (IO), he had gone to the police station with witnesses and testified to the IO.

Natore district AL Secretary Hanif Ali Seikh alleged that the charge sheet was false and demanded judicial inquiry into the murder.

### Custodial torture protested in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Satkhira unit of the Task Force Against Torture (TFT) organised a discussion meeting here yesterday on custodial torture in observance of the United Nations International Day, Supporting Tortured Victims.

Held at the official of Satkhira Unnyan Kendra, a local NGO, it was presided over TFT Satkhira Coordinator Prof Pabitra Mohon Das. The discussants included principal Sheikh Abdul Wadood, Dr Shushanto Ghosh, Prof Abdul Hamid, schoolteacher Ashraf Ali Siddique, journalist Anisur Rahim, advocate Mostafa Asaduzzaman, Prof Quazi Abdul Kashem.

The speaker said custodial torture is a slur on democracy and called upon law enforcers to shun this practice. They also called upon the people to protest this to institutionalise democracy.

Earlier, the TFT brought out a procession in the town. It terminated in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

A memorandum was submitted to the DC to take steps to stop custodial deaths.



PHOTO: STAR

A partial view of the workshop on breastfeeding, held at Nilphamari Health and Family Planning Centre yesterday.

### WORKSHOP ON BREASTFEEDING TOLD

## Int'l code on baby food sale defied in Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The 'International Code on Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes' is being violated in Bangladesh to promote sale of canned powdered milk and other baby food.

This was stated by Dr. Abu Ahmed Mortuja, child specialist at Nilphamari Hospital, at a workshop held here yesterday to create awareness about the need for breastfeeding of babies.

This code was recommended by the World Health Assembly to curb propaganda by baby food producers. The country also incurs crores of taka for importing baby food.

The workshop was held at the Sadar upazila health and family planning training centre.

Jointly organised by the Civil Surgeon's office, Nilphamari and

Breast Feeding Foundation (BBF), the workshop was also addressed by, among others, BBF Co-ordinator from Dhaka Dr Rifat Ara Hossain Lucy, Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner Shafiqul Alam, Deputy Director of Nilphamari Health and Family Planning Department Tawfiqur Rahman and Dr. Selina Begum. Civil Surgeon Dr Nazrul Islam presided.

The speakers said mothers, especially educated and working ones, despite knowing that breastfeeding is the best, prefer canned baby food for their babies because of illusion and propaganda by the multinational baby food producers. The country also incurs crores of taka for importing baby food.

They called upon the government to limit import of baby food to popularise breastfeeding.

Maternity hospitals should be turned into 'baby friendly' hospitals to help mothers develop the habit, the workshop suggested and urged the government to frame laws in this regard.