

BNP leader sues a family, boy for rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

All the family members of a Krishan League leader, including his six-year-old son, have been named as accused in a rape and rioting case filed with Jessore Kotwali Police Station on March 02.

The case was filed by local ruling party leader Abul Kalam Shamsuddin.

ASB Abdur Rob, President of ward no. 9 unit of Jessore Krishan League, has been named as the prime accused in the case along with his wife, two sons and daughter.

Earlier, Rob and his family members had been severely attacked by the BNP leader and his men on Wednesday night following a dispute over possession of a building at Nilganj Tatipara under Jessore Kotwali thana, according to sources. The invaders threatened the family with death.

The BNP leader then went straight to Kotwali thana and lodged

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Businesses thru' Tamabil stalled for 8 days

UNB, Sylhet

Export and import through Tamabil land port in Goainghat upazila has remained suspended for the last eight days, depriving the government of revenue worth crores of taka.

Following a conflict with the Indian Border Security Forces at Dauki port in India on February 24, Indian coal exporters have kept their export suspended, Tamabil port sources said.

The local chamber of commerce and industry on Thursday sent a letter to the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka urging for steps for the resumption of coal export.

Meanwhile, export and import through Sutarkandi land port also remained suspended after a bridge

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

A policeman stands on guard at Tamabil land port through which coal import from India has been suspended for over a week costing Bangladesh huge sums of revenue.

OVERSEAS JOB SEEKERS

Conned into penury by modern slave traders

PORIMOL PALMA with DAUD KHAN

Fraudulent practices of some recruiting agencies, both in sending and receiving countries, leaves many Bangladeshi migrant workers destitute at home and vulnerable abroad to exploitation, causing huge financial losses that some spend the rest of their lives paying off.

The recruiting agency's exaggeration about the benefits and perks

from jobs on the one hand, and prospective workers' ambition and the government's lack of control over false practices on the other, deepen the helplessness of migrant workers.

Jahangir Alam, 32, is one of those helpless workers. Previously a bus driver of Dhaka-Manikganj route of Kunda, Savar, he paid the package price of Tk 2 lakh to migrate to Saudi Arabia in 2003, though the government-fixed rate for a visa is no more than Tk 70,000.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

According to normal procedure, migration to a Gulf Country for work should not cost more than Tk 40-50 thousand, including service charges to the recruiting agencies for passport processing, the cost of airfare and a visa, as well as the agency's profit.

But a growing competition in the migrant visa business is helping to drive up prices, while also forcing down wages.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

8 killed in 3 road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight people were killed and 17 others injured in three road accidents in Savar, Rangpur and Sirajganj yesterday.

Three fishermen were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident near Savar Telegraph and Telephone office on the Dhaka-Aricha highway early yesterday, our Manikganj reports.

Police and witnesses said a fish-laden Dhaka-bound truck coming from Gopalganj collided head on with another truck, leaving the three dead on the spot.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Nine critically injured were admitted to a local clinic.

Our Rangpur correspondent reports: Four rickshaw pullers were killed and two others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Rangpur highway yesterday.

A covered van of SA Paribahan ran over the four who were standing beside the road at 7:30 am at Kalabagan under Pirganj upazila, police said.

The dead are Rashedul, 24, Abir,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Long march for river waters ends at Chilmari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, from Kurigram

A long march towards Chilmari ended yesterday morning at the Chilmari river port with a huge rally protesting India's principles of sharing river water with Bangladesh.

Speakers at the rally urged the Indian government to stop its unilateral decision to implement the controversial river-linking project and to install embankments across rivers that also flow through Bangladesh. They also urged that the Farakka treaty be amended in accordance with international river laws for the sake of equitable sharing of water.

The speakers also proposed that a river commission should be comprised of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan and China to settle all regional problems in connection

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Worker representatives from Germany wave red flags while taking part in the National Garments Workers Federation rally at Muktagan in the city yesterday.

Prayer Timing

March 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

2 outlaws killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A leader of outlawed Jashod Gono Bahini (JGB) was killed in a 'shoot-out' between his accomplices and police while another outlaw was killed in a gunfight between two rival extremist groups in the district early yesterday.

Two police personnel were injured in the former incident, and four extremists in the latter.

JGB's regional leader Abdus Sattar was killed in a 'line of fire' when his accomplices were involved in a gunfight with police at village Kushtibasa in Kumarkhali upazila, police said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

GALIB, OTHER ARRESTEES

Interrogations run out of gas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of intelligence agencies now quizzing militant kingpin Muhammad Asadullah Al Galib and his three associates in the joint interrogation cell (JIC) seem reluctant to grill the arrestees in order to confirm their links to militancy.

Meanwhile, two Islamist cadres of Ahole Hadith were arrested in

Salmonirhat while four others fled yesterday, according to police sources.

Sources said the intelligence

Related story on front page

officials did not vigorously interrogate Galib and his associates yesterday as expected, even though six day of Galib's 10-day remand have

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Straw said Syria had no choice but to leave Lebanon.

"It has got to, it is very clear," he said, noting "every one of its neighbours is saying you have got to leave".

He said Syria had to withdraw "in a sensible, swift but phased way" in order for the country to "come back

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

UK warns Syria of 'pariah status'

Arab leaders urge Syria to leave Lebanon

AGENCIES, Damascus/Lebanon

UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw has warned Syria it risks being "treated as a pariah" if it fails to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

In a BBC interview, Straw said more UN peacekeepers could be deployed in Lebanon to replace Syrian troops.

Syria has come under intense pressure to pull out of Lebanon since a massive car bomb blast there on 14 February.

Lebanese opposition groups have blamed Syria for the attack, which killed popular former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri - a charge Syria has strongly denied.

