

## Suspicion on husband

**FROM PAGE 1**  
learned that Aminul raped the maid, law enforcers said in their preliminary probe.

"I think Aminul killed the two after an argument erupted with Dr Nazneen over the rape," said Moinalu Haq, Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Ramnazonopolice.

Saiful Islam, a cousin of Dr Nazneen, filed a murder case yesterday accusing Aminul of the murder. Police then raided different areas of Aminul's home village, Akbarpur in Patnailata upazila in Naogaon yesterday, but failed to find him as of yesterday evening.

Dr Nazneen was buried in the family's graveyard in Choudhagram at Comilla. Parvin's body, meanwhile, was kept at Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue yesterday as no one has so far claimed it.

The slaughtered bodies of Dr Nazneen Akhter, husband of LabAid Chairman Ali Ahmed Bhuiyan, and her housemaid, Parvin, were found Monday night in Nazneen's house on the second floor of 13/1, on Central Road in Dhanmondi.

Police recovered two bloodstained vegetable cutting knives from the house, while the victim's relatives said Tk 2.5 lakh and gold ornaments were missing.

Nazneen's husband Dr

## Women unite

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the chief guest at the rally. He inaugurated the event by releasing two colourful display placards tied to gas balloons.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Minister for Women and Children Affairs Khurshid Jahan Haque, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selina Rahman, US Ambassador Harry K Thomas, UNFPA Representative Suneeta Mukherjee, among others, spoke at the rally.

In her speech Khurshid Jahan Haque said, "Our struggle for women's rights would continue until we achieve our goals to have equal rights and values in the society. But the movement has to start from the grass-roots level."

Besides speeches by the dignitaries, participants enjoyed songs sung to traditional rural tunes, and dramas highlighting, among other issues, violence and social injustice against women, dowry, and equal rights of women.

"We must fight to abolish disgusting traditions like dowry," said Tahmina from Chandpur. She held a placard that read "Stop dowry".

Rumela, a women rights activist from Mymensingh, said, "There are some superstitions about women working outside home. These are great barriers to women empowerment. Our leaders must stress the importance of getting rid of such ridiculous mindset."

"I am here to celebrate the day. But more importantly, now I can feel that we have a platform to raise our voice," said Sajeda from Dohar.

Directorate of women and children affairs had long been preparing for yesterday's gathering. It had instructed district commissioners to arrange vehicles to transport women from places across the country. Law enforcers kept the venue restricted to public for the last few days on security grounds.

"The gathering seems to have spent a huge amount of money, but in fact it cost us nothing as community based organisations and women associations paid for their own transport (fuel) and meals," Md Morteza Hossain Munshi, secretary of women and children affairs ministry, told The Daily Star.

He said, "For the first time in our country, such a huge gathering of women has been organised to observe an event. We had expected the number [of participants] to be around 10 thousand, but an estimate shows it comfortably exceeded the 15,000 mark."

Jago Nari Shomabesh is part of a nation-wide campaign entitled Jagoran Padajitra. Minister for women and children affairs inaugurated the campaign about a year ago. Such gatherings have already been held in 38 districts to develop an awareness to stop violence against women.

## Shady deals in prime

**FROM PAGE 1**  
value," an amount pre-calculated on the basis of market value and inflation and measured in terms of katha, a unit of land equaling 720 square feet. But sources disclosed that in some cases the entire tender process was "tightly controlled" by several influential individuals. For instance, an official source, commenting on at least two prime properties in Gulshan, said, "Banks were manipulated to restrict the number of schedules, allowing only the selected individuals to buy the schedules for bidding."

Rajuk Chairman Shahid Alam said that in total they received 288 bids for the plots, all of which were sold for prices ranging between Tk 21 lakh and Tk 29 lakh per katha depending on the location. He claimed the prices were higher than market price. However, the actual market price for plots located in these areas ranges from Tk 25 lakh to 40 lakh per katha, depending on location. Four years ago, in fact, Rajuk auctioned a plot near the Gulshan roundabout for Tk 40 lakh per katha. "Those who have bought the plots are now saying that it would have cost them less if they bought similar plots from the market," Shahid Alam said.

Sources in Rajuk however said that on receipt of the offers, they divided the list into three categories. One category contained the names of 17 people who

Afsaruzzaman, who was in Bogra since Sunday, returned to Dhaka yesterday morning after receiving the news over phone.

According to police and Nazneen's relatives, Aminul raped Parvin when Dr Nazneen was at the house of her mother, Saleha Ahmed, on Sunday night. Parvin allegedly informed Dr Nazneen of the rape when the doctor returned home to Central Road on Monday morning. A fight then reportedly ensued between the doctor and her nephew.

"I think Aminul argued with Dr Nazneen over the matter and slaughtered the two at a point," AC Moinalu told reporters.

According to police and a security guard, Aminul went out of the house with a bag at about 8:30pm, about half an hour after the murders took place.

"I heard Parvin's scream at around 8:00pm but did not care much as she used to scream at times," a guard, Moslemuddin, told The Daily Star.

"As I asked him (Aminul) where he was going, and he replied he was going to Madama's (Nazneen) brother's house," said Moslemuddin.

When Saleha later phoned her daughter at 8:30pm, no one answered, so she sent her domestic help, Manjila, to check on Dr Nazneen. But Manjila soon returned after finding the door of the doctor's apartment locked from the outside.

Some staff of LabAid later broke open the door and found Nazneen's body near the door. Parvin's body was lying on the floor of dining room.

Morgue sources said the killer stabbed Dr Nazneen in the right cheek and right wrist before slaughtering her. Parvin was stabbed in the left arm, elbow and wrist, right arm, left ear and left side of the chest.

Aminul, who passed the Dakhil examination from Mollapara Dakhil Madrasa in Naogaon, came to Dhaka a couple of months ago and was staying with Dr Nazneen.

He took Parvin six months ago to Dr Nazneen's house for domestic work.

Police, meanwhile, were quizzing guard Moslemuddin, whom they picked up in the early hours of yesterday.

## Rab man held

**FROM PAGE 1**  
A Rab press release said departmental actions were taken against the arrested Rab SI.

The Intelligence Wing of the elite anti-crime force keeps an eye on all the Rab members and monitors their activities, the press release said. It also said Rab is taking stern actions against those of its members who violate discipline and are engaged in anti-disciplinary activities.

Itso far has cancelled deputation of 72 officials to it and the process is under way for sending another 35 Rab-men back to their mother organisations for violating discipline.

Rab sends the accusees back to their mother organisations. Lt Col Fazlul Bari of Rab told The Daily Star last night. The mother organisations take actions against the accusees according to their own regulations.

Some of the accusees were rewarded imprisonment, some fined and some suspended, said Bari, adding some were even awarded rigorous imprisonment.

Bari said, besides the Intelligence Wing, sometimes Rab units themselves carry out investigations following allegations.

The anti-crime force came to limelight after nabbing several top criminals across the country. It, however, was much criticised when numerous men, mostly with criminal records, were killed during its operations, in a process now widely known as 'crossfire' death.

There are allegations that Rab officials collect tolls from people and, in some cases, even threatened innocent men to exact money. Allegations are also there that Rab released some criminals after arresting them.

At present, a total of 5,521 personnel from different law enforcing agencies, Ansars and defence forces are working at Rab.

The government plans to strengthen the elite force, State Minister for Home Affairs Lufozaman Babar informed the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday, which he said is already well equipped with modern arms and ammunition, transportation, sophisticated intelligence, and bomb disposal and communication equipment.

bid more than 'book value,' the second those who bid just below the 'book value,' and the third those who did not qualify at all because their bids were too low. The list with the three categories was then sent to the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, which decided to include 'two individuals' from the second list and asked Rajuk to complete formalities for the sale of 19 plots.

The two names were a cause of consternation for Rajuk officials. "When the ministry asked us to include the two names from the second list, we had no idea who those individuals were," said a Rajuk source. Later it was alleged that one of the individuals was the Prime Minister's Personal Secretary, Mohammad Shamsul Alam, who bought a 13-katha plot in the name of his brother-in-law for Tk 2,77,87,600. The Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister's office later served Shamsul Alam a show-cause on January 30, asking him for an explanation as to how he obtained such a prime property.

When asked for a list of beneficiaries in the auction, Rajuk's Estate Department refused to provide the list or disclose the total amount received so far.

## Firoz Rashid

**FROM PAGE 12**  
press briefing at his Banani office yesterday greeted the joining. He said, "It really is a very happy day for the party that he [Firoz Rashid] is back."

"It shows that we are getting stronger," added the former president.

Firoz Rashid will be appointed political secretary to the JP chairman. Ershad said, "He will act as a spokesman for me."

Some JP sources however hinted that Rashid would be made the next secretary-general.

"I am back to my home in response to Ershad's call for greater unity," said Firoz Rashid adding, "I hope that others will follow suit."

"I don't have any discord with anybody," he said, "I am back to Jatiya Party for the sake of politics, as I cannot contribute much from a limited position."

Responding to further queries from the newsmen, Rashid said that he allied with the ruling coalition because then he considered it wise. "People will evaluate both the successes and failures of the coalition government in the next general elections," he added.

"Anyone who wants to pursue politics, has to join my party," Ershad said, "We are rapidly gaining strength to compete independently in the next general elections."

He said that credit for having Firoz Rashid on board again goes to Bidisha Ershad, coordinator of the JP's women wing.

JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawladar, Fakrul Imam and Bidisha Ershad were present at the press conference.

Golam Sarwar Milon did not attend the press conference. The JP chairman, however, received his joining letter.

Meanwhile BJP Chairman Nazirul Rahman Manjur told the press that Kazi Firoz Rashid is yet to resign from the party. Joining any other organisation is his personal matter, and it will not hamper the BJP.

## Ban on rally

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)'s imposition of restriction on commoners' gathering and any type of rally on the parliament compound.

"This is a bad instance that a ministry held a rally violating the restriction," said a high official of the Jatiya Sangsad, adding that the South Plaza of the parliament is used only to accord reception to visiting state guests.

"The speaker gave permission to hold the rally. As he is the authority, we have nothing to do," DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Surprised at the incident, a number of lawmakers attending the parliament session yesterday questioned how the speaker allowed such a programme when the session was going on.

More than a hundred women activists from across the country joined the programme that was followed by a cultural function.

## Two infants

**FROM PAGE 12**  
did not bear any marks, said Khilgaon police.

Dhanmondi police found body of a newborn boy from the tin-roof of a house at 21 Central Road, at 4:00pm Monday.

Someone might have thrown the infant from any of the high-rise buildings around, said Dhanmondi police.

Meanwhile, an unidentified woman was killed in a road accident at Khilgaon yesterday.

Railway police said the woman was crossing road through rail gate no. 15 at Maghbazar at 8:10am when a Jamalpur-bound train hit her.

She was sliced into two and died on the spot. Police sent her body to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue.

## NBCP cadre

**FROM PAGE 12**  
some NBCP cadres were holding a secret meeting at about 3:30am, police said, adding that the underground operatives opened fire when the law enforcers asked them to surrender firearms.

Police returned fire that resulted in an hour-long shootout. After the gunfire police found Aiyub dead, while his cohorts fled, police said.

The three injured policemen are SI Aminul, constables Sahin and Akbar.

Police seized 2 revolvers, one local made rifle and 13 round bullets from the spot.

## Pakistan 312

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Pakistan, playing their first Test series in India for six years.

The 23-year-old Madras bowler, who had been sidelined since September due to a pelvic injury, eventually finished with five for 76. His captured the vital wicket of Kamal en route to grabbing the last three scalps in quick succession with the second new ball.

Kamal, who was dismissed for 99 on his Test debut against South Africa in Lahore two years ago, hit 14 fours in his 163-ball effort lasting almost four hours.

He revived the innings in a 52-run fifth wicket partnership with captain Inzamam-ul Haq, who contributed 57, before producing useful partnerships down the order as conditions eased in the final session.

Kamal was out facing the first over with the second new ball, bowled between bat and pad as he attempted to drive on the rise.

## HR, democracy best

**FROM PAGE 12**  
uphold universality of values and dignity of human being, in other words, human rights," said Hasina, who is the 'lone victim of terrorism' attending the summit.

Explaining how counter-terrorism measures undermined human rights, freedom of opinion and speech, Hasina said counter terrorism measures around the world have directly led to many human rights violations, revealed in comparative studies of the legislation and their applications.

"In many cases, terrorism has been used as an excuse to repress the opponents, for arbitrary detentions and other similar violations. Instead of holding on to human rights as a counter-terrorism tool, states have opted to discard or restrict these rights, which may even give rise to frustrations, alienation and further violence," she said.

The counter terrorism measures particularly intruded into the very right on which the free society was based on, freedom of opinion and speech, which have become victims of war on terrorism, she said.

Referring to democracy, Hasina said one of the important responses to terrorism should be globalisation of democracy.

"The democracy, with all its connotations, like access, participation, equal opportunities, rule of law, non-discrimination gender rights, good governance, openness etc,

### ROBBERY CASE

## 3 cops appear in court for naming dead man, babies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three police officials and the plaintiff of a robbery case filed in Chittagong against a dead man and 10 others including four babies yesterday appeared before the High Court (HC) following a suo moto rule issued on March 1.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice AK Badrul Huq and Justice M Fazlur Rahman asked them to explain how the dead man and babies were implicated in the case.

The court ordered the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Chittagong to submit the case records in two weeks.

The four who appeared before the HC are Officer-in-Charge of Chittagong Kotwali Police Station Nazrul Islam, Sub-inspector (SI) Zahidul Islam, investigation officer of the case SI Tofazzal Hossain and plaintiff Samiuddin.

On their prayers, the HC gave them three weeks to give their explanation. Hearing of the case will be held on April 2.

Samir filed the case on February 6 against 11 members (one of them dead) of the family of his neighbour Chittaranjan Nath. They included four babies—seven-month-old Bijoy Nath, 11-month-old Hridoy Nath, 18-month-old Dhananjay Nath alias Durjoy Nath and two-year-old Sagar Nath.

## Corporate sector

**FROM PAGE 1**  
auditors are conducting their assignment at the corporate bodies.

The WB will provide technical assistance and a consultant to draft the law. The consultant will review similar laws in other countries and suggest how it can be framed in the context of Bangladesh.

The government, under another mandatory condition, must reduce the financial losses of the state owned enterprises (SOE) by 10 percent by June. This means the SOEs must not incur losses more than Tk 300 crore, which was Tk 339 crore in the last year.

The finance ministry informed the WB that the government had succeeded in reducing the SOE losses by 4 percent by December. The ministry believes that reducing it by 10 percent is a doable job.

The WB mission also told the government that to avail itself of the DSC tranche it will also have to qualify and get the \$70 million worth fourth instalment of the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) loan of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," said a finance ministry official.

Bangladesh was supposed to get the PRGF instalment in January. But its failure to fulfil some important conditions has stalled the disbursement process.

The government by June will also present a procurement law before parliament. It already has framed a draft of the law incorporating the existing procurement guidelines and the WB believes it is in the right track.

The WB also wants the government to make the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) fully staffed and operational. Although, by the book, the newly formed ACC is operational, it is unable to operate due to lack of manpower.

In the administration, the government must implement new personnel management, including extended merit-based promotions, transfers within clusters, revised compensations and enhanced training.

Sources said although the finance minister last year announced that the ministries had been put under four clusters in this line, there had been no practical change in the way administration was managed.

The government is also required to implement the first phase of new budget process in at least four selected ministries. Sources said the finance ministry is already working in this line and framing the upcoming budget accordingly.

create an environment in a society where extremism, often translated into terrorism, have ways to accommodate and ventilate grievances, which are unavailable in a non-democratic society," she observed.

She opined that although human rights, norms have long been established, but there is not an instrument on mandating democracy, nor any ways to assess its extent and nature.

Hasina came up with a new suggestion to establish a global regime on democracy and a mechanism in the form of a 'World Democracy Organisation', which will reward democracies.

"...democracy should be the basis of international, economic and commercial relations. Democracy has to be promoted, encouraged, sustained and protected through a framework," she said.

Through this globalisation of democracy process, the AL president said all our efforts must be made by the nations around the world to reach out to others, where democracies are non-existent or faltering.

Referring to a globalised justice system, Hasina said, step by step a global justice system has been developing for long. The system will work effectively only if it receives universal support, where the process will follow international norms of justice, she said.

On poverty and inequality, an underlying reason for terrorism, Hasina said the next approach to counter terrorism would be to address inequality of the global order, resources, its distribution and enjoyment, and in this regard, pervasive poverty must be addressed. In a world free from poverty and under democracy will be a near ideal world.

She also pointed out that a just world order, which is another important element, to be striving for a fair world order, where disputes and differences are settled more vigorously in peaceful manners.

On human development, she said attention should be given to maximise opportunity for human development in all corners of the globe, and in this regard, necessary resources be made available for the communities to set their priorities on education, health, income generation, production etc.

## Unocal

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Kalapur location apprehending environmental degradation in the area. Things were finally settled with the intervention at higher level.

The Lawachara National Park is attached to Magurchara, where a massive blowout and fire took place on a well in June 1997, as another US company Occidental was drilling at the site. The incident caused large-scale destruction to forest resources and the ecology in addition to the waste of huge gas that raised an uproar in the country.

Unocal will initially supply 70 mcmfd from the two wells in Moulvibazar gas field. By the year end it will rise to 150 mcmfd as Unocal plans to drill two new wells in the nearby Nurjahan tea garden and in the Zerin tea garden locations, the sources added.

## Forex worth Tk 38 lakh seized at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Monday night seized foreign currencies worth over Tk 38 lakh from a Singapore-bound passenger.

Tipped off, a team of Customs Intelligence and Investigation department held Monir Hossain, 30, from boarding Bridge no. 2 at 10:45pm.

The customs officials found Saudi riyal, pound sterling, Japanese yen, Brunei ringgit and euro worth Tk 38,16,581 in Monir's possession. He was heading for Singapore flight no. SQ-436, said police.

Monir was handed over to the airport police yesterday afternoon.

## 2 top BTRC posts filled

3 vacant still

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed the vice-chairman and a commissioner at the Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

Retired additional secretary AMM Reza-e-Rabbi has been appointed vice-chairman of the telecom regulator and Justice Abdus Salam a commissioner, an official notification said.

They have been appointed for three years from the date of joining.

Top five posts of the telecom regulator including that of the chairman and four commissioners, one of whom act as the vice-chairman, fell vacant on February 1.

Officials and employees of BTRC could not draw their salaries for the month of February in absence of its chairman and commissioners.

Day to day activities including renewal of licences and allocation of frequencies also remained suspended in absence of the five top officials.

Keeping such posts vacant for over a month is contrary to the Telecom Act that insists on appointment against any vacant post within a month.

## SC advises ETV to seek licence

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Supreme Court Tuesday advised the Ekushey Television (ETV) authorities to file an application to the government seeking licence for reopening the television channel.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain adjourned the hearing on the ETV case for 10 days.

The court also asked the counsels for the ETV authorities to inform the results of the application before hearing.

Barrister Tanjib-ul-Alam, a counsel for the ETV authorities, told the agency that the television authorities filed an application to the Ministry of Information seeking a licence.

Dr Kamal Hossain appeared before the court for the petitioner while Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali and Advocate TH Khan stood for the government.

The government, on August 29, 2002, banned the broadcasting of the Ekushey Television, the first terrestrial private television channel of the country, following an order of the Supreme Court.

The ETV authorities then applied for the licence to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Corporation (BTRC), but it did not respond.

## Dr Kamal

**FROM PAGE 12**  
He also urged the people of the country to resist the people who are trying to divide the country on the basis of communalism and for narrow political interest.

Dr Kamal said development of the country can not take place if women are kept away from the development process.

The leaders of Nari Oikyo Mancha also addressed the meeting.

A cultural program was held after the meeting.

## No river linking

**FROM PAGE 1**  
India is eager to reach a meaningful solution with Bangladesh at earliest.

He also refused to term the persisting crisis over the Teesta water-sharing a 'tension'. It is rather a 'misunderstanding between two countries', he said.

"Issues of difference will be discussed at political level of both countries," Dasgupti said.

Blaming the West Bengal government, Dasgupti said due to their negligence the Teesta project was not implemented on time.

## Hartal a thing of past

**FROM PAGE 12**  
economy. "We can't afford confrontational politics—it is too costly, and we believe it is unnecessary too," he said.

Lissner observed that it is quite natural for the opposition to disagree about something, but it is quite unnatural for disagreeing about everything.

He suggested constructive democratic dialogue between people of all sides of political spectrum to find some common ground for the welfare of the population and the country.

"I think one of the most important issues for Bangladesh is to create a strong economy where people can generate jobs to feed their families. And for that it needs open debate to flourish new ideas and people have to be able to discuss important matters in an open atmosphere," he said.

Admitting a stark reality, he said, "Our concern is we are currently facing a double problem". On the one hand, the opposition parties before and now are causing negative effect on the economy by calling hartal and, on the other, the ruling parties before and now do not give much of the chance to the opposition to contribute to the public debate and to formulation of new legislation.

Asked if he would favour banning hartal by enacting new law, the UN development agency's country chief disagreed on the notion, saying: "You can't abolish hartal by passing a law as you can't stop smoking by making a law." Hartal is something that needs agreement by political parties to stop realising it is bad for the people and economy.

Asked for his view on hartal, the UN executive said the project "Beyond Hartals: Towards Democratic Dialogue in Bangladesh" was undertaken two years ago with the joint funding of the Netherlands and UNDP. The study shows a vast majority of Bangladeshis want to graduate out of hartal culture.

The study, he hoped, would improve the quality of democratic debate and political parties would start talking together to find common ground for the welfare of the country.

## Milon plans chopper

**FROM PAGE 1**  
State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon will rush to any examination centres anytime in a chartered helicopter.

Friends and well wishers of the state minister will bear the cost of his trips in the absence of a government provision for it, Education Minister Osman Farruk told a press conference yesterday.

The use of helicopter by the state minister for such vigilance last year without approval by the education ministry had given rise to a controversy.

"Use of helicopter to rush to examination centres works as a threat to those likely to resort to unfair means," the state minister said.

A total of 9,55,365 examinees will appear at the SSC, Dakhil and SSC Vocational examinations from tomorrow at 1,778 examination centres under nine education boards in the country.

Of the SSC examinees, 233,129 are from Science group, 312,843 from Humanities and 213,435 from Business Studies, according to statistics of Education Board Computer Centre.

A total of 159,901 examinees will sit for Dakhil examinations under Madrasah Education Board and 36,057 for SSC Vocational examinations under Technical Education Board.

## Court allows cops

**FROM PAGE 1**  
extremist Idris Ali Khejur of Simba in Raninagar, according to a BDNews report.

Chief of Ahale Hadith Bangladesh and a Rajshahi University teacher, Galib was taken in for 10-day