

Aminul, his brother sued on charge of land grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A case has been filed against former post and telecommunications minister Barrister Aminul Haque and his brother on charge of grabbing a piece of land in Godagari upazila. Mojibur Rahman of Madarpur village filed the case with Godagari Police Station, accusing eight people, including Aminul and his brother Dr Asaduzzaman, on Thursday night. Two of the accused--Saidur Rahman and Fariduddin--were arrested yesterday. Mojibur alleged that the accused forcibly captured some 92 decimals of land belonging to him in 2004 for an NGO named Carb. He said that his wife Nazira

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Mob damages vehicles as road mishap kills 1 in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic on the Rokeya Sarani was disrupted for an hour yesterday as an angry mob damaged a number of vehicles following a road accident that killed one person and injured three others. Police said a Mirpur-bound bus of Shah Ali Paribahan dashed three rickshaws near west Sheorapara foot over-bridge at around 2:00pm, leaving an unidentified rickshaw-puller dead and three others, including Mizan Rahman, a contributor to Diner Sheshey, a tabloid published in the afternoon, injured. Locals rushed the injured to different city hospitals. Police could not give the identities of the two other injured. Angered by the accident, locals chased the bus, but the driver managed to flee with his vehicle. However, they went on a rampage when another bus of the same

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New lists of Naogaon, Rajshahi criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Fresh lists of criminals, especially militants of JMB and PBCP outlaws, are being prepared in seven police stations of Rajshahi and Naogaon districts. Some 1500 people have already been listed from Bagmara, Mohanpur, Durgapur and Puthia of Rajshahi and Atrai, Raninagar and Manda of Naogaon districts, said sources in the police. The anti-crime task force and law enforcement agencies have started gathering information on militants, outlaws, political cadres, corrupt government servants and smugglers at the roots level, sources said adding that a

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Aishwarya, Abhishek tie the knot

AFP, Mumbai

Bollywood stars Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan were married Friday in traditional Hindu ceremony, capping three days of celebrations for Indian cinema's hottest couple. There was chaos on the streets outside the two families' Bachchan residences, as more than a thousand fans jostled to catch a glimpse of the former Miss World and the son of veteran Indian screen icon Amitabh Bachchan. The relatively low-key wedding nevertheless passed off smoothly, with the couple walking around the holy fire seven times to complete their marriage. Unlike usual Indian weddings where the guest list can run into thousands of people, the ceremony late on Friday was restricted to around 100 close friends and family. Rai, 33, wore a traditional red saree for the ceremony, while the

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WB directors turn up heat on Wolfowitz

AFP, Washington

World Bank directors yesterday promised urgent action over a pay scandal engulfing the development lender's president, Paul Wolfowitz, as calls mount from senior staff for his resignation. "The executive directors agreed on a process to deal with the situation urgently, effectively and in an orderly manner," they said in a statement after late-night talks on the fate of Wolfowitz, a former US deputy defense chief. The board of 24 executive directors had met for several hours behind closed doors to thrash out their response to revelations that Wolfowitz ordered a massive pay deal for his bank employee girl-

friend, Shaha Riza. Echoing a statement from World Bank ministers Sunday, the directors expressed "great concern" over the affair, which has caused a rebellion among the World Bank's 10,000 staff. The directors said they had discussed "questions related to conflicts of interest and possible violations of staff rules" and identified issues requiring further consideration, including the arrangements made for Riza. They asked bank officials investigating the affair "to consider immediately the arrangements made for the secondment of the staff member closely associated with the president." The meeting came after a stormy

session of senior staffers Wednesday in which one of Wolfowitz's two top deputies -- managing director Graeme Wheeler of New Zealand -- told him directly to quit. Wolfowitz offered to make some management changes but was told point-blank that only his departure could rescue the World Bank's credibility, according to sources. "It's not about management style. It's not about interaction with staff," one insider said, on condition of anonymity. "There was an exasperation that was conveyed to Wolfowitz: what part of 'resign' don't you understand?" Reports said senior managers from Latin America and Asia had

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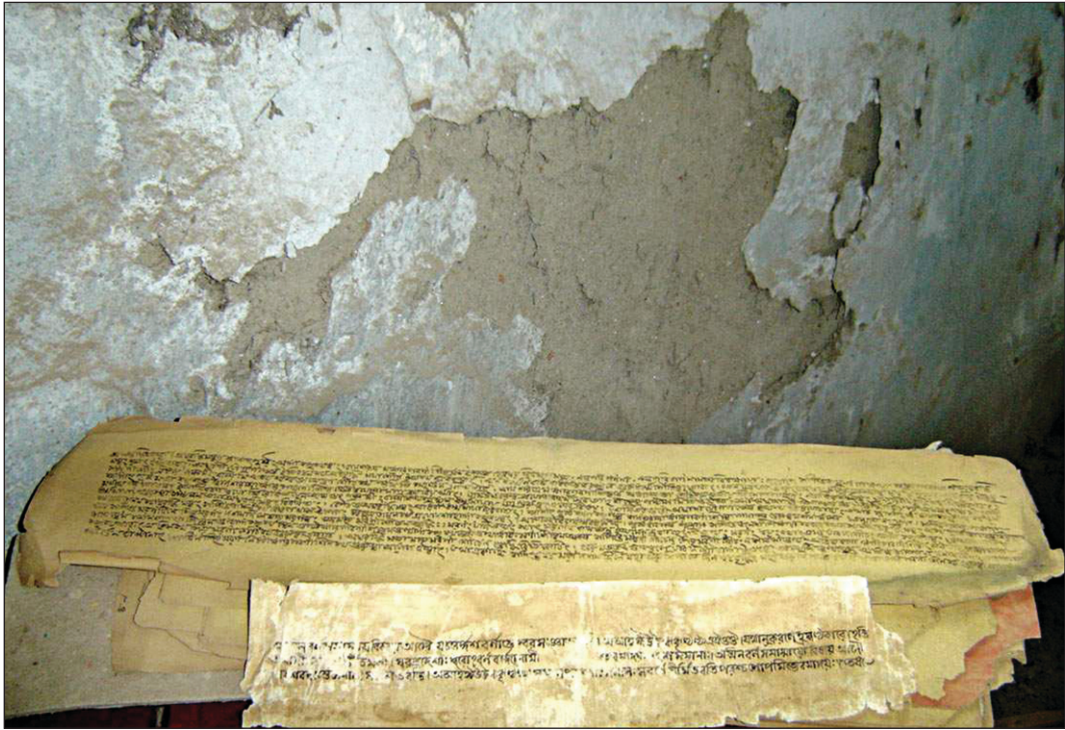


PHOTO: STAR

Valuable old manuscripts kept in a damp room of the old building of Woodburn Public Library.

8 Hizbut Touhid men sued under arms act in Meherpur

Police sees no 'subversive motive'

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Eight Hizbut Touhid men including Meherpur district chief of the militant Islamist outfit arrested recently have claimed to law enforcers that they have no links with any organisation other than their own, and they want to 'establish sovereignty of Allah' and are prepared to do anything for it. The arrestees also said they have dedicated their lives to the cause of 'Islam' and they are now on the field of 'Jihad' (holy war) for establishing an 'Islamic state', a high official of Meherpur police said. The militants were arrested on April 13, and firearms, sword, books

and leaflets calling for Jihad were seized from their possession. They include Hizbut's Meherpur district chief Anisur Rahman and Gangni upazila chief Sahabul Islam. Police have filed a criminal case against them under arms act, and they are now in Meherpur jail. "During interrogation of the arrestees, they did not seem to have any motive of subversive activities. So, we have filed a criminal case," Khandakar Rashidul Islam, Meherpur superintendent of police (SP), told this correspondent. Police however are still trying to ascertain if their statements during quizzing are correct.

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No move yet to salvage Bogra old books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

There is no move yet to salvage more than 17 thousand old books and manuscripts facing decay in the old building of Bogra Woodburn Public Library. During a recent visit, this correspondent saw old manuscripts kept in a damp room where cracks have developed in the walls and plasters are falling out while the new building is too small to accommodate the original library resources. Only Tk 15 thousand could have saved the ancient manuscripts that are lying in the old library, school-teacher Shyamal Bhattacharya, a former member of the library management committee lamented. In 2004, following the establishment of "Government Woodburn Public Library" on Edward Park

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Father kills two daughters, attempts suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A father strangled his two minor daughters and tried to commit suicide by taking poison at Mirpur in the capital yesterday. The deceased are Vigarunnisa Mahima, 9, a student of class three of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, and three and a half-year-old Tasmia Karim Aha. Their father Mohammad Rezaul Karim, 40, a resident of block B in Mirpur-10, is fighting for life at Dhaka Medical College hospital (DMCH). Rezaul tried to commit suicide by taking poison after killing his two kids, said Mirpur police who got primary confirmation of the incident. Hearing this terrible news over cell phone, Asma Begum, the mother who had been away from home since morning, fell sick and was admitted to DMCH. Asma runs a beauty parlour named 'Women's Style' at Mirpur-10. After the Juma prayers yesterday, neighbours heard Rezaul groaning. They rushed to the room but found it closed from inside. They broke into the room and saw his two daughters lying unconscious on the bed. Neighbours took them to DMCH where doctors declared the two girls dead and admitted Rezaul in a critical condition. Owner of Moynamati General Store at Mirpur-10, Rezaul left the shop for home at 9:00am and did not return, said Sohel, an employee of the shop. Neither the relatives nor the law enforcers could confirm the motive behind the killings.

Khulna newsman chargesheeted in bribery case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Bureau chief of Dainik Inqilab ATM Rafique has been chargesheeted in a bribery case. Sub-Inspector SM Obaidul Haque, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge-sheet to the Speedy Trial Tribunal here on Thursday afternoon. The joint forces arrested Rafiq at his office on April 10 while he was taking Tk 20,000 in bribe from Forest Ranger Mohammad Yunus Ali of the Sundarbans Forest Division (SFD). The forces recovered 40 notes of Tk 500 denomination, which were earlier photocopied by the forest ranger. In the charge-sheet, the IO has named seven people, including Forest Ranger Yunus Ali, as prosecution witnesses. The ceremony was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital where enthusiastic tree planter Kartik Pramanik of Tarapur in Shibganj Upazila in

BSF man held in Satkhira freed after flag meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Villagers and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel detained an armed Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel after he entered Bangladesh territory crossing the border near Taluigachha in Satkhira yesterday afternoon. He was released later following a flag meeting between BDR and BSF. The detained BSF man was identified as Shivanarayan of 191 BSF Battalion of Amudia camp in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. BDR and police sources said Shivanarayan entered Bangladesh territory near Taluigachha, a village near the Indian border, of Sadar upazila and started chasing Bangladesh nationals working in the fields there raising his self-loading rifle (SLR). BDR personnel captured the BSF man with the help of locals around 12:30pm and seized his SLR with 48 bullets, sources said. Soon after the incident, BSF sent a letter to BDR authorities protesting the detention and asked for a flag meeting to be held. Following the flag meeting, which was held yesterday evening, BDR released the BSF personnel. On contact, Major Nurul Momin Chowdhury, second-in-command of BDR 41 Rifles Battalion, confirmed the incident.

Prayer Timing		
April 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		



PHOTO: STAR

Kartik Pramanik, the receiver of Channel i Agriculture Award 2007, flanked by Channel i Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagar (left) and News Director Shykh Seraj at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Dhaka yesterday.

'Modernise agri sector for food security'

Channel i honours Kartik Pramanik for tree planting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The food security of the country would be at stake within 10 ten years if the agriculture sector is not developed and the production of rice is not increased, speakers at the award giving ceremony of Channel i Agriculture Award-2007 said yesterday. "We succeeded in producing rice for our people in the last 36 years. It was possible by cultivating high-yielding paddy. In future, we would not be able to provide sufficient rice for the ever increasing population if our agriculture sector is not modernised and given higher priority," said Shykh Seraj, director of private satellite television channel, Channel i, and the founder of its popular programme "Hridoye Mati O Manush", in his keynote speech at the award giving ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital where enthusiastic tree planter Kartik Pramanik of Tarapur in Shibganj Upazila in

Chapainawabganj received the Channel i Agriculture Award-2007. Kartik was awarded for his outstanding contribution in planting trees in a vast area in Shibganj. He spent 50 years planting trees beside roads, ponds, canals and even in fields owned by others in the upazila. Shykh Seraj said development cannot be achieved keeping the farmers of the country in poverty. "A total of 47.1 percent people in the villages live below the poverty line and among them 24.6 percent are in extreme poverty," he pointed out adding that the number of landless people is increasing day by day. "At this moment, around 22 percent people of our country are landless and most of them are farmers," he added. He urged all including the government, NGOs and experts to come forward and contribute in the agriculture sector to modernise it. Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya said the

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Kartik's fifty years of selfless tree planting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Enthusiastic tree planter Kartik Pramanik, who spent almost 50 years selflessly planting different kinds of trees in a vast area of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj, was awarded the Channel i Agriculture Award-2007 yesterday. "I am a poor farmer. I have planted trees beside roads, ponds, canals and even in open fields owned by other people in my upazila. I never plant trees to receive honour or any kind of reward. I do this selflessly," said sixty-five-year-old Kartik after receiving the award at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital. Kartik, a barber and son of late Suren Chandra Pramanik, is a well-known figure at Tarapur in Shibganj upazila as his planting of trees has made the upazila greener. "My mother, Subhash Bala Dasi, told me that trees have life. When I was a child she said planting trees is an act of piety. I started planting when I was 10 and the first tree I

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