

Jhenidah Jubo
Dal leader held
for 'extortion'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Joint forces arrested Jhenidah
Pura Jubo Dal secretary yester-
day noon.

Arrestee Ahsan Habib, 31, is also
president of Red Crescent Society in
Jhenidah town.

Police said, Ahsan Habib was
arrested from his Red Crescent
Society office on charge of extor-
tion, doing violence and anarchy.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge
(OC) Iqbal Ali of Jhenidah Sadar
police station confirmed the arrest.
Asked, the OC said there is no case
against Ahsan.

He was being interrogated at the
Sadar police station, the OC said.

**Four bombs
recovered in
Belkuchi**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Four bombs were recovered from
Gopalpur Charkadaho in Belkuchi
upazila in Sirajganj yesterday.

Police recovered the bombs
wrapped with red tapes from the
courtyard of Hazi Momen Ali.

Police said miscreants might
have kept the bombs to create panic
among people.

**10 jute workers
to go on hunger
strike for arrears**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Ten out of 2,500 retrenched work-
ers of state-owned Crescent Jute
Mills at Khalishpur have vowed to
go on hunger strike until death from
September 16 if Bangladesh Jute
Mills Corporation (BJMC) fails to
pay arrear wages, gratuity, provi-
dential fund and all other dues by
September 15.

They are Golam Mustafa,
Abdul Sobhan, Md Moniruzzaman,
Khandaker A Mohit, Md Joinal, Abdus Sattar,
Abdul Mannan, Babul Howlader,
Entajuddin and Mujibar Rahman.

BJMC, ministry of jute and
management of Crescent Jute
Mills will be held responsible for
any untoward incident during their
hunger strike, they said in a state-
ment yesterday.

They said in the statement that
some retrenched workers died
without treatment since the jute mill
was laid off in April. Many workers
have already taken to begging,
they claimed.

According to acting project
Director Md Asaduzzaman, the mill
needs over Tk 100 crore for pay-
ment of all arrears of retrenched
workers.

8 'outlaws' arrested in Meherpur, Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police and Rapid Action Battalion
(Rab) in several raids in Meherpur
and Rajbari arrested eight alleged
outlaws along with arms.

Of them, four are cadres of out-
lawed New Biplabi Communist Party
(NBCP), arrested in Rajbari and the
rest four were held in Meherpur. Law
enforcers also recovered three arms
and eight bullets. The raids were
conducted from Monday night till early
yesterday, police said.

In Meherpur, a Rab team led by
Flight Lieutenant Galib raided two
areas in Gangni upazila Monday
night and arrested three alleged
cadres of Janajuddho faction of
outlawed Purbo Banglar
Communist Party (PBCP). The
arrestees are Sahin, Zahidul and
Hasem Ali.

Rab said they arrested Sahin
from Mathpara village at about
5:30am Tuesday. Acting on his

information, they arrested Zahirul
from Ramnagar and Hasem from
Bazrapur villages and recovered a
gun and four bullets.

In another raid, Gangni police
arrested Abdur Rashid, a cadre of
Lal Pataka (red flag) faction of
PBCP from Harirampur village in the
Meherpur Sadar upazila early
yesterday (Wednesday).

Police raided the house of one
Rashid at about 5:30am and
arrested him. Acting on his confes-
sion, they recovered a country made
pistol and four bullets, hidden in his
house.

Police said the arrested people
were accused in different cases
including rape, abduction and
extortion, filed with different police
stations in the district.

All were being interrogated at Rab
and police offices when the report was
filed at yesterday afternoon.

In Rajbari, Pangsha police
raided the house of one Chikon Ali at
about 4:30am yesterday.

Police was interrogating Bachchu
when the report was filed in the
afternoon.

Save people of Kabodak basin

Speakers demand at Tala meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at meeting yesterday
urged the government to take imme-
diate steps to resolve the persisting
water-logging problem in 221 vil-
lages in Tala and Kalaroa upazilas in
Kabodak river basin.

Over 75,000 people are
marooned and their 25000-hectare
croplands are uncultivable due to
water logging caused by flooding
from silted Kabodak.

As the river is silted, it can not
retain water, which overflows its
banks, they said.

The problem has destroyed the
livelihood of the people, who are in
great miseries for long.

Most of areas in the villages are

inundated by ankle to knee-deep
water.

The villagers have little access to
safe drinking water and sanitation,
which have made them vulnerable to
diseases, they said. Most of the tube
wells have gone underwater.

Scores of houses have been
damaged as the homesteads are
under water since June, they said.

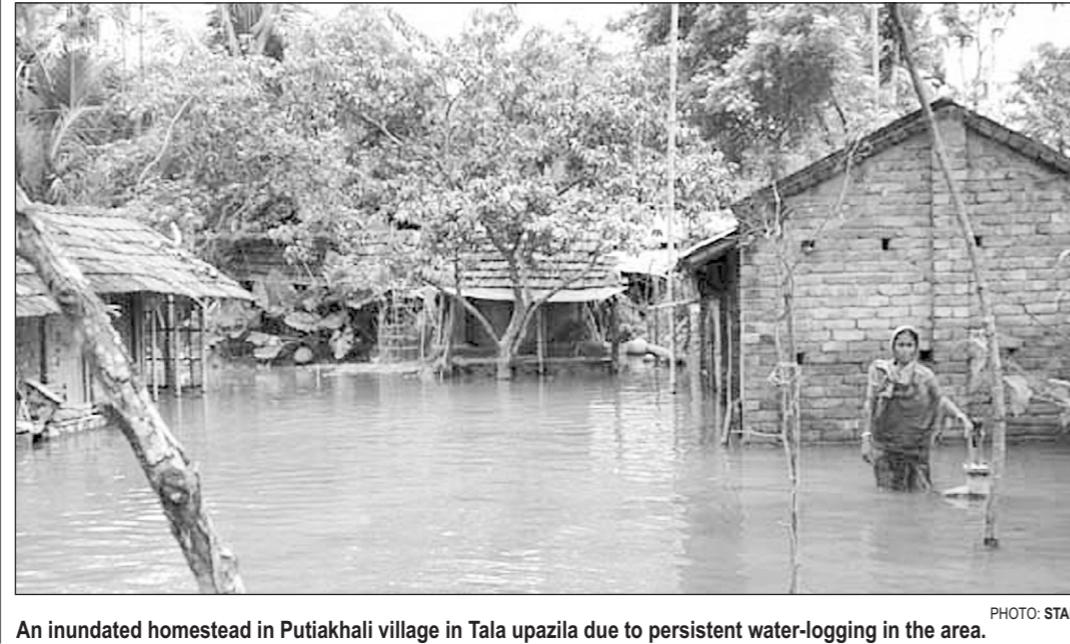
Over 227 families who lost their
houses in the area have taken shelter
on high lands, the speakers said.

Re-excavation of silted Kabodak
is the only solution to the problem
but no step has yet been taken in
this regard, they said.

The meeting was organized by
Oxfam and local NGO Uttaran who
are working to mitigate the suffer-
ings of the affected people. Held at
Uttaran office at Patkeghata in Tala
upazila, the meeting was also
attended by local journalists of
national dailies and the electronic
media and NGO officials.

Earlier, the two NGOs organised
a tour of the area by journalists.

The water-logging poses threat
also to the ecology as vegetation,
wildlife and livestock are affected,
they said.



An inundated homestead in Putiakhali village in Tala upazila due to persistent water-logging in the area.

8x3

Verdict in Sylhet JMB explosives case Sept 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Verdict in the explosives recovery
case filed after arrest of JMB chief
Shaikh Abdur Rahman will be
delivered on September 12.

Judge of Sylhet Divisional
Speedy Trial Tribunal, Diproman
Sarker, fixed the date after argu-
ment in the case yesterday.

The explosives were recovered
from a house in Sylhet city during
arrest of Abdur Rahman.

However, the prime accused in
the case—JMB's Sylhet regional
chief Moulna Saidur Rahman, former
(expelled) chief of Habiganj
district Jamat, is absconding since
the arrest of Abdur Rahman, his
family and some other JMB men on
March 2 last year.

Rapid Action battalion (Rab)
recovered the explosives from a
house in Hatimbagh area of the
town following confession of Abdur
Rahman's body guard Abdul Aziz
alias Hanif, one of the JMB activists
arrested on March 2.

These included seven packets of
resistance wire, 1000 pressure
switch, 1000 capacitors, 600 inte-
grated circuits (IC), one volt meter,
one high voltage battery, one pack
of emitter diode. A belt (used for
strapping bombs), knives, daggers,
light bulbs etc were also recovered
from the house.

The houses was rented to JMB
activists by Saidur Rahman.

The house was raided several
hours after the surrender and arrest
of Shaikh Rahman, his family men
and others in the morning of March
2.

A case was recorded with Sylhet
Kotwali police station under the
Explosives Act.

SUST reopens on Sep 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Classes in all departments of the
Shahjalal University of Science &
Technology (SUST) will resume on
September 10.

The decision was taken at a
meeting of SUST Syndicate yester-
day. All dormitories will open at 10
am on September 8.

The university was closed *sine*
die on August 23 in the face of
students' demonstration following
incidents in Dhaka University.

Police foil early marriage bid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Police foiled an early marriage
attempt at Bhagabpur village under
Palashbari upazila on Tuesday.

A marriage was arranged
between Monjura Khatun, 14 and
Rubel Mia, 24, son of Parchu Sheikh
of Bhagabpur village under
Palashbari upazila.

On getting information police
stopped the marriage. A case was
filed against marriage registrar,
father of bridegroom and guardians
of bride.

5.5x3

TRIAL OF 9 ALLAHAR DAL ACTIVISTS 3 witnesses testify before court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three witnesses testified before the
court of First Class Magistrate Jalal
Saifur Rahman in Kushtia yesterday
in the case against nine arrested
activists of Allahar Dal. The
witnesses were Badsha, Hafizur Rahman and Alamgir
Hossain of Piyaatala area in
Kushtia town.

The court fixed September 13
for deposition by the investigation
officer (IO) of the case. Sub-
Inspector (SI) Islamil Hossain of
Kushtia Sadar police station is the
IO of the case.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-12
in Kushtia in a nightlong drive
arrested them from different areas
of the district on June 5.

They are Nazmul Hassan, Tipu
Sultan, Jahir Uddin, Tasnim-al-
Alam, Ranak Mohammad Rakib

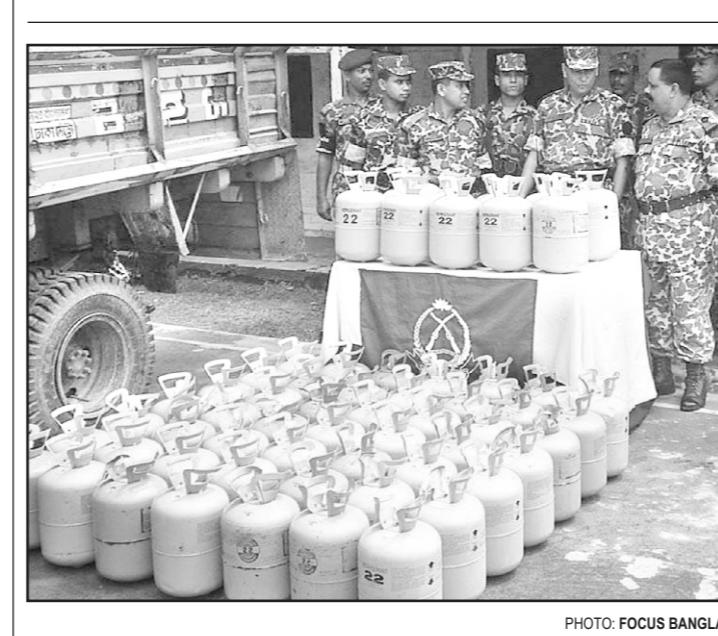
Mondol, Shafiqul Islam Sumon,
Lokman Hossain, all hailing from
different areas of Kushtia, bappi
Shahriar of Manikganj and Murad
Sharif of Faridpur.

Tasnim is the son of Abdul
Wahed, Kushtia district Amir of
Jamaat-e-Islami. Tasnim was
treasurer of Kushtia district unit of
Allahar Dal.

Earlier, the arrested persons told
police and court that they were
members of Allahar Dal.

Trial of the case began in Kushtia
Speedy Trial Tribunal on August 20.
They were arrested under the
Special Powers Act.

According to sources, the court
yesterday asked the witnesses
about Jihadi books during the arrest
of Ranak Mohammad Rakib Mondol
on June 5. He was Kushtia district
'Nayak' (district chief) of Allahar Dal.



Acting on a tip off, BDR intercepted a truck at Ranihat on the road to Sona Mojid land port in Chapainawabganj and seized 60 gas cylinders Tuesday night. The driver escaped, BDR said.

10x3