NATIONAL

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira.

upazila Saturday night.

ing to the victim's father.

A 3-year boy was abducted allegedly by pirates from Purba Kalinagar village adjacent to the Sundarbans in Shyamnagar

The abductors demanded Tk

one lakh ransom for release of

Pappu, son of Golok Chandra

for payment of the ransom, accord-

They gave a five-day deadline

Quoting local people, police

said, a gang of pirates armed with

deadly weapons entered the house

of Golok Chandra at dead of night

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A High Court (HC) bench yesterday

granted bail to Sylhet City BNP chief

Ariful Haque Chowdhury who was

detained in connection with an

Tarigul Hakim and Justice Sheikh

Abdul Awal granted him interim bail

for four months after a hearing on the

Talukder and Advocate Shahidur

Rahman filed the bail prayer on

The bench comprising Justice

Advocate M Rafiqul Haque

Dilar Ahmed, a leading contrac-

He alleged that Arif had called

allotment of major development

facing three other criminal cases

A court here sentenced him three

years rigorous imprisonment in a

corruption case months ago, Later, he

SylhetAnti-SmugglingCourt.

including one under EPR.

extortion case.

Thursday.

Sarkar, Shyamnagar police said.

Tk 132cr Sylhet flood control Boy abducted for Tk 1 32cr Sylhet flood control Tk 1 lakh ransom project still uncertain

Only 15pc work done in 7 years: Plan revised thrice in 2 years

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

With completion of 15 per cent works seven years into the start of 'Upper Surma-Kushiyara project' in 2001, the much talked flood control and irrigation scheme in Sylhet district now seems uncer-

Only Tk 18 crore has so far been spent under the Tk 132 crore flood control and irrigation project taken up by Water development Board (WDB) in north-eastern Sylhet while the project, earlier scheduled to be completed by FY 2005-2006, has been revised several times.

'Upper Surma-Kushiyara project' was designed for flood control, improvement of drainage system and introduction of better irrigation facilities in vast areas of Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Beanibazar, Golapganj and

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Leaders of Sector Commanders

Forum (SCF) yesterday said war

criminals and anti-liberation

forces have no right to go to parlia-

ment and urged the people to

boycott them in the upcoming

criminals to establish justice,

consolidate democracy and

uphold the spirit of the Liberation

War. They were addressing a meet-

ing at Santhia upazila auditorium

(retd) AK Khondoker, Maj Gen

(retd) KM Shafiullah, Lt. Col (retd)

Abu Usman Choudhuri, and

Freedom Fighter Commander

Nizam Uddin addressed the meet-

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Speakers at a condolence meeting

held here yesterday paid rich trib-

utes to Mong Raja Paihala Prue

Chowdhury who was killed in tragic

a road accident at Paglapara in

Oikyo Parishad organised the meet-

ing. Held at the office of Mong Raja,

the meeting was chaired by Oikyo

Parishad president Kong Chairy

Marma while it was attended by

Khagrachhari Hill District Council

chairman Monindra Lal Tripura as

gratitude the pioneering role of

Mong king in bringing back peace

in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)

through signing of CHT peace

accord between government and

indigenous Parbotya Chattogram

Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) on

life for welfare of people of Mong circle. During his rule, different

tribes including Chakma, Marma,

Tripura, Rakhine and Mag lived in

Commander Brigadier General

Mohammad Qumruzzaman,

Deputy Commissioner AKM

Khairul Alam, Superintendent of

Police Mohammad

Khagrachhari municipality Mayor

Mohammad Joynal Abedin, Marma

Sangthan Oikya Parishad Secretary

was brought out from Youngda

Buddha Bihar. Thousands of people

PBCP cadre held

for killing trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yester-

day arrested a cadre of the outlawed

Purba Banglar Communist Party

(PBCP) named Hafiz Uddin Sheikh at

at the village for his alleged involve-

ment in killing a trader named Abul

same upazila Saturdaynight, Rab said.

gang of PBCP cadres numbering

about 25 by pushing a pistol inside his

mouth at around 8.00 pm, he said.

Hafiz was arrested from his house

Paikoravillage in Tarash upazila.

in Sirajganj

Earlier, a mourning procession

Babusshi Chowdhury addressed.

Oaiumuzzaman Khan

Khagrachhari Army Region

They said the king dedicated his

Speakers remembered with

chief guest.

December 2, 1997.

peace and harmony.

Bangladesh Marma Sangathan

Ramghor upazila on October 23.

SCF Chairman Air Vice Marshal

They demanded trial of war

parliament election.

Saturday afternoon.

no right to be in JS

Sector commanders tell Santhia freedom fighters

Sylhet Sadar upazilas in the

Repeated floods, water stagnation and large scale erosion along the banks of two major rivers in the region have caused huge damage to crops, households and croplands for the last several years while the WDB authorities failed to take protective works in

Asked by the Ministry of Planning, WDB made a revised project a year ago to complete works of the 132-crore taka project by 2009-2010 fiscal year.

But only 10 crore taka has been given for the work in 2008-09 fiscal year, the executive engineer of WDB, Sylhet, said, adding that it would be impossible to complete the project by 2009-2010.

The original project that started in 2001-2002 with an estimated cost of Tk 111 crore

ing presided over by Santhia

upazila Muktijodhha Sangshad

Commander Mokbul Hossain

criminals, we have to resist them

from going to parliament", said AK

Khandoker. "They have no right to

KM Shafiullah said, Bangladesh

was liberated in a bloody war but

war criminals and anti-liberation

force still do not believe in the spirit

of Liberation War. Denying the war,

they are denying the country's

SCF leader Lt Gen Harun-ur-

Rashid and journalist Harun Habib

were present at the meeting,

attended by several hundred free-

dom fighters and peoeple from all

go to parliament".

constitution, he said.

walks of life.

Tributes paid to

"If we want punishment of war

included, construction of 181kilometre embankments, 813 irrigation structures, two bridges, five drainage regulators, 163 km irrigation canals, 56 km drainage canals and installation of four irrigation pumps.

About two years ago, the project budget was raised by 58 per cent putting the figure at Tk 181 crore, with a target to complete it by 2009-10. The programme includes acquisition of 450 hectares of land, construction and reconstruction of 159 km embankments, construction of 20 drainage cum flushing regulators and construction of a pumping station, 30 km irrigation canal, 64 km lateral canal and 122 irrigation structures, said an

But following a directive by the water resources ministry in early 2007, the project was revised and

official of WDB.

War criminals have 'JP to support AL in

the cost was cut down to Tk 135 crore after six months. Again it was revised to a Tk132-crore project in November last year.

Successful implementation of the project would provide irrigation facilities for 38,000 hectares of land through the irrigation canals and drainage canals, the official

Construction of embankment is urgently needed to save the people from recurring floods in Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Beanibazar and Golapganj upazila areas while further delay in project implementation would result in escala-

enced repeated and prolonged floods following gushing down of water from the upstream hilly region in Indian. The disaster left behind a colossal damage to the crops and dwelling houses.

and demanded Tk one lakh as toll. As he failed to pay, they abducted Pappu from the house at gun Shyamnagar thana OC Abdur Razzak visited the spot yesterday and assured the victim's parents of a drive in the deep forest to rescue

The region last year experi-



Cultural organisations form a human chain on the premises of Dinajpur Government College yesterday demanding re-installation of baul sculpture near Zia International Airport in the capital.

Demolition of Lalon sculpture a conspiracy

3-day protests begin in Rajshahi; rally, human chain held in Nilphamari, Dinajpur

a rally in front of Madhu Canteen

and vowed to resist anarchy and

Leaders at the rally also expressed

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Protests against demolition of Lalon sculpture in the capital by religious bigots continued yesterday in districts. The protesters demanded reinstallation of the sculpture, saying it is expressive of Bangladesh's rich culture and heritage.

In Rajshahi University, Sculpture Protection Mancho, a newly floated organisation of over 20 cultural bodies and students organisation, yesterday launched a three-day programme on the campus demanding re-installation of the Baul sculpture near Zia

International Airport in Dhaka. On the first day, the Manch held

of ZIA Chhatar as 'Baul Chhatar'.

violence in the name of religion.

solidarity with the proposal to name They said demolition of the Lalon sculpture is apart of an evil design by fundamentalist forces to destabilise the situation ahead of the election. It

is a plot against Bangla culture and

tradition, and also the spirit of the Liberation war, they said. The programme includes sit-in demonstration and cultural

programme today (Monday), protest art exhibition and rally and human chain on the campus tomorrow. Earlier on the day, Bangladesh

Samajtrantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ) at RU formed separate human chains and held protest rallies on the campus demanding reinstallation of the sculpture. In Nilphamari, different socio-

Chhatra Union (BCU),

cultural organizations formed a human chain and held a rally at Chowrongi intersection in the town demanding re-setting of the sculpture. Local Udichi Shilphi Ghosti,

Muktijoddha Smriti Pathagar, Mohila Parishad, Sahitto Parishad, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Bhawyaia Academy, Shilpi Samaj, Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committe jointly organized the programmes.

Kushtia-2 if grand Ariful Haque Chowdhury Sylhet city BNP alliance formed' chief Ariful gets bail

Inu also in field, may seek alliance ticket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Jatiya Party (Ershad) Presidium member Ahsan Habib Linkon yesterday said his party will support Awami League (AL) leader Mahbubul Alam Hanif if is is a nominee of the proposed grand alliance in Kushtia-2 (Mirpur-Bheramara) constituency in the coming election. He however said he will seek JP

nomination if there is no grand alliance. Linkon bought JP nomination paper yesterday, he told this correspondent.

Once chanman of Kushtia Zila Parishad, Linkon declared his party's stance at a meeting of Mirpur upazila Awami League where he was an invited speaker.

Held at Mirpur Women College premises Saturday evening, the meeting was also addressed by Kushtia JP secretary Abdur Razzak, Mirpur JP president Khondokar Sahjahan Ali Dudu and secretary Shamsul Alam.

Without mentioning any name, Linkon said his party will support the 'candidate who is actually a man of the area and dedicated to its development'. No 'seasonal bird' will get JP supportin the constituency in election. "I will extend all my support only

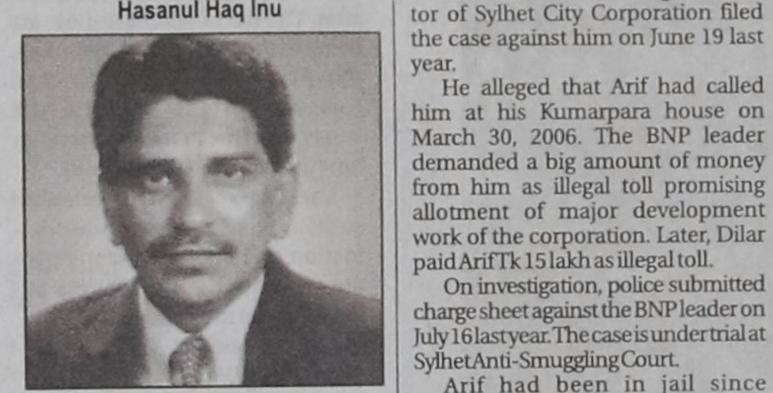
to Mahbubul Alam Hanif if he gets nomination. JP will not support any other candidate", he said. With Mirpur upazila AL president Rabiul Haq Rabi in the chair, the meeting

seeking nomination from AL-led proposed grand alliance in Kushtis-2 tively. constituency.

Both are now in the field and are 'confident' of getting alliance ticket,



Hasanul Haq Inu



spondent.

Hanif, vice-president of Kushtia district AL, contested from the constituency in 1996 and 2001 polls but lost to BNP's Sahidul Islam. He got 28,544 votes in 1996 election and 87, 734 in 2001 election.

ISD leader Hasanul Haq Inu ran in the constituency in 1991, 1996 and 2001 elections and got 21,411, 26,327 and 38, 877 votes respec-

24, 695 votes in 1991, 40,106 in 1996 and 25, 334 in 2001.

Squabbles in Khulna JP Four bigwigs to vie for nomination in Khulna-3 STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Intra-party squabbles in Khulna Jatiya Party (Ershad) have come to

Four leaders belonging to two factions of the party are likely to vie for nomination to contest from from him as illegal toll promising Khulna-3 (Daulatpur-Khalishpur) constituency in the coming parliamentary election.

On investigation, police submitted They are central organising charge sheet against the BNP leader on secretary and ex-lawmaker Abdul July 16 last year. The case is under trial at Gaffar Biswas, central vicechairman and ex-whip Hasina Banu Arif had been in jail since Shirin, general secretary of its February 25 last year as he has been

Islam Madhu and general secretary of its city committee Molla Mujibur Rahman. All of them will purchase nomi-

Khulna district committee Shafiqul

nation papers for Khulna-3 and are likely to go to Dhaka today for this, party sources said. Abdul Gaffar Biswas claimed that

he would win the seat if nominated. He was nominated for the seat in last parliamentary elections as a candidate of 14-party grand alli-

"I was elected in 1986 from this constituency", he said claiming him

to be the most popular politician in the industrial belt.

Hasina Banu Shirin, who also claimed her to be one of the pioneers of all democratic movements including the 1969 historic mass upsurge, said she has all qualities to win confidence of party high command in getting nomination to contest from Khulna-3.

Shafiqul Islam Madhu and Molla Mujibar Rahman are also confident of getting the ticket.

Both of them accused each other of being involved in dividing the party in Khulna into two factions.

was addressed by, among others, upazila ALjointsecretarySaifulAlamRana. Linkon's remarks came at a time when AL leader Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Jatyia Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu is Paihala Prue Chowdhury

from all walks of life joined the

procession. The king's cremation ceremony will be held at his residence today.



Mahbubul Alam Hanif

sources close to them told this corre-

JP leader Ahsan Habib Linkon got

wasgrantedbailfrom HC. Butheisyetto getbailinataxevasionfiledunder EPR. OVERHAULING

Worker dies at Zia fertiliser, 4 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

One person was killed and four others were injured while overhauling the Ashuganj Zia fertiliser factory Saturday evening.

The dead was identified as Md. Abdur Rauf, 32, a factory worker. during by falling into the repairing boiler-tank while they were doing the overhauling work in the factory of Ashuganj Zia Fertilizer Company Limited (ZFCL) on Saturday night.

Factory sources said worker Md. Abul Kalam slipped into the LDC boiler of the ammonia plant. Four other workers including Abdur Rauf tried to save him and fell into the boiler.

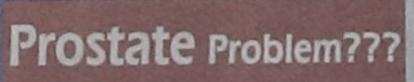
All the five were rescued and sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital in critical condition, where doctors declared Md. Abdur Raufe dead. The injured are being treated.

Workshop on violence against women held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Speakers at a workshop titled, 'Effectiveness of Existing Law to Prevent Violence against Women' held at Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) office here yesterday stressed on creating mass awareness about violence against women.

Women's Right Unit of RDRS organised the workshop chaired by its programme manager Zeba Afroza. Md Akhter Hossain, ASP of Dinajpur attended as chief guest while Dinajpur Mayor Md Shafiqul Haquewas special guest.



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Kidney Stone???

Do you feel pain in your

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... If yes, then consult an urologist. You might be suffering from Prostate Problem or Kidney Stone.

What to do?

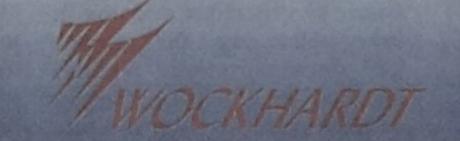
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- TURP: In TURP, an equipment called Resectoscope is used to clear the enlarged prostate gland.
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Remedy for Kidney Stone

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- Ureteroscope. In some cases, Swiss Lithoclast is also used. Open surgery - Open surgery is done
- only when the stone is very big:

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Ayub Korom Ali: A new Londoni face in Sylhet politics and local government experience

Courtesy, SAM Strickland

"Change" he said. "Change is crucial." As the sun sank in the darkening sky these words, spoken in a quiet voice, seemed poignant and urgent with the state-ofemergency and election looming.

Ayub Korom Ali, an Oxford-

educated, Londoni politician, is shifting his career, family-life and home in London to contest the forthcoming election in Sylhet. He will try to be an Awami

League candidate for Sunamganj-5 (Chhatak-Duara) constituency. He is one of a growing number of Londonis in the wake of 1/11

who feel desperate "to go home and

contribute their skills and efforts to their motherland." I met Ali during my ongoing project exploring the complex relationship between Sylhet and the UK. It has brought me in contact with countless thoughtful people but also much pessimism and defeatism. Spending time with Ali and listening to his vision, calm optimism and clarity of thought would strike a chord with even the most cynical of journal-

Kalam Azad at Katagari Bazar in the "The time has come for real change. Not just words, but actu-On interrogation, the arrestee ally making a genuine difference," confessed to his involvement in the killing. The victim was shot dead by a

said Ayub Korom Ali. "Tackling youth unemployment is crucial to future prosperity of the country. Young people are our most

valuable asset and we must get them into jobs. That's the only way we can effusively fight poverty.

From before dawn and well into the night, between his endless phone calls, meetings and lively dialogue with local people, Ali talked of his hopes for Chhatak Duara's future and the urgency of

both as a Labour councillor and a senior officer in East London will be pivotal to his success if elected.

change. He spoke of reform, establishing true and fair democracy, and working towards establishing an incorruptible "economic bridge" between Britain and Bangladesh.

Ali believes his extensive political

"Together we can transform Bangladesh into the 'Sonar Bangla' of which our founding father Bangabandhu dreamt. This

is the future our country yearns Having fought fascist thugs in London in the 1970s and battled for workers' rights as a trade unionist, Ali says he is unafraid to fight for "the prosperous and fair future of Bangladesh."



PHOTO: BY SAM STRICKLAND

Korom Ali talking to people at Duara in Sunamganj.