



PHOTO: STAR

Students and guardians take oath against corruption at the farewell ceremony for SSC candidates of Alinagar High School in Chapainawabganj town yesterday. Sachetan Nagarik Committee of Transparency International Bangladesh organised the oath taking.

## Vow to uproot corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
C'nawabganj

Teachers, students and their guardians here yesterday vowed to uproot corruption for ensuring overall development of the country.

They took the vow at an oath-taking ceremony held at Ali Nagar High School compound in the morning.

Sachetan Nagarik Committee and Youth Engagement and Support Group of Chapainawabganj unit of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) jointly organised the oath-taking ceremony as part of a campaign to create awareness among students and teachers against corruption.

Zeker Ali, president of Ali Nagar High School managing committee presided.

Speakers urged people,

especially youths and students, to come forward to uproot corruption, a barrier to economic development and prosperity. Widespread corruption is hindering development of the country, they said.

Advocate Sohrab Ali, convener of Sachetan Nagarik Committee administered the oath-taking ceremony.

Among others, Atahar Ali, headmaster of Ali Nagar High School, advocate Siful Islam Reza and Faijur Rahman Mani, members of Sachetan Nagarik Committee spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, similar programmes were organised at Chouhodditola High School in town on January 23 and at Laxmipur High School in Sadar upazila on January 24.

## Call to ensure safe drinking water in Sidr, Aila-hit areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Mannujan Sufian yesterday said crisis of safe drinking water turned acute in the south-western coastal areas of the country after cyclonic storms Sidr and Aila hit the region in 2007 and 2009.

"The other name of water is life. But the people of south-western region are suffering from different diseases after drinking saline water. They have to purchase drinking water. So, we are now striving hard to ensure safe drinking water for them," she said in her address as chief guest at the inaugural session of two-day Coastal Water Convention at the Public Hall auditorium in the city at 10:30am yesterday.

"We must ensure people's right to safe drinking water. A united effort by the people of all walks of life is needed for getting safe drinking water, particularly in the south-western region," the state minister said.

AOSED (an organisation for socio-economic development) organised the convention in association with 43 other organisations including Khulna City Corporation, public universities, Khulna WASA, four upazila parishads, Water Aid Bangladesh and some development organisations of Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts.

AOSED has taken a joint initiative to organise Coastal Water Convention-2011 for providing a way out to solve water crisis in the southwest coastal region, said Executive Director of AOSED Shamim Arfeen who conducted the inaugural session of the convention.

Three technical sessions on issues relating to integrated water management in the south-western coastal belt, risk due to adverse impact of climate change and loss of rights of the people on water resource were arranged on the first day of the two-day convention.

City Mayor and chairperson of

coastal water convention committee Talukder Abdul Khaleque presided over the inaugural session.

The session was attended, among others, by lawmakers Nani Gopal Mandol of Khulna-1 constituency, Sohrab Ali Sana of Khulna-6 and Begum Noor Afroze Ali of reserved seat of parliament, Vice Chancellor of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology Dr Md Alamgir, President of Khulna unit of Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad Dr Sheikh Baharul Alam who is also central vice president of Bangladesh Medical Association, Water Aid Bangladesh Country Director Dr Md Khairul Islam, Managing Director of Khulna WASA Md Abdullah, Paikgachha upazila parishad Chairman Md Rashiduzzaman Morol and General Secretary of Dakope Upazila Water Right Committee Sheikh Juboraj.

Over 1500 people from south-western coastal belts joined the session.

## Bid to loot fertiliser, five robbers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kishoreganj

Five robbers were arrested on Gurautra River in Asanpur area of Bajitpur upazila on Friday.

The arrestees are Al-Islam, 27, Osman Gani, 28, Elias Mia, 23, of Ashuganj upazila in Brahmanbaria district, Jashim Uddin, 20, of Sultanpur village in Comilla district, and Rangu Mia, 22, of Itna upazila in Kishoreganj district.

Police and locals said a gang of robbers attacked a fertiliser-laden Kishoreganj-bound boat from Ashuganj on the river at around

6:00pm on Friday and beat up the boatmen. As the gang tried to take away the fertiliser, the boatmen cried for help.

Hearing scream, people from Dighirpar, Asanpur and Sahapur village surrounded the robbers and caught them. On information, police rushed to the spot and arrested five robbers.

The injured boatmen were admitted to Bazitpur Medical College and Hospital. A case was filed with Bajitpur Police Station. Police yesterday produced the robbers in a court that sent them to jail.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### Doctor's house looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Robbers early yesterday looted gold ornaments, valuables and cash worth about Tk5 lakh from the house of a doctor on Shershah road in Ishwardi upazila. Police arrested five suspected robbers in this connection yesterday. Officer-in-charge of Ishwardi police station Md Samiul Alam said, a gang of robbers entered the house of upazila family planning officer Dr Abdul Baten on Shershah road in Ishwardi upazila at about 2:00 am yesterday. The robbers looted 8 tola gold ornament, Tk 70 thousand in cash, mobile phone set and camera worth about Tk5 lakh from his house at arms point. Being informed, additional superintendent of police of Pabna and the high officials of the district police administration also rushed the spot. Later, police arrested 5 suspected criminals, the OC said.

### Female drug trader jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A mobile court has sentenced a female drug trader to two years rigorous imprisonment. The convict is Sanjida Sultana Sonia, 24, of Arpara village in Kaliganj upazila. Kaliganj police station officer-in-charge (OC) Faruk Hossain said, on a tip-off, police conducted a drive at Arpara village yesterday noon and arrested Sonia red-handed while preparing small packets of heroin for sale. Police also recovered 50 grams of heroin from her possession. Mobile court judge Anjumanara, also UNO of Kaliganj upazila awarded the punishment to her.

### RMCH interns call off strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Intern Doctors Association of Rangpur Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) yesterday called off their indefinite strike after eight hours of strike. Intern doctors called an indefinite strike yesterday following attack on fellow intern doctor Kutub Uddin on the college campus by criminals on Friday night. Kutub Uddin sustained injuries by the attack. Intern doctors called off their strike at a meeting held on the campus in the afternoon after a request by the director of RMCH for the same. Contacted, president of Intern Doctors Association of RMCH Dr ABM Moniruzzaman confirmed withdrawal of the strike. The demands included action against the criminals who stabbed Kutub Uddin on Friday night and setting up of a police outpost at the campus.



PHOTO: STAR

President Mokbul Hossain, GS Subir Roy

### New KUJ executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna bureau chief of Dainik Jugantar Mokbul Hossain Minto and Khulna bureau chief of Dainik Jai Jai Din Subir Roy have been elected president and general secretary (GS) of a seven-member executive committee of Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ) for a term of two years. Other office-bearers are vice president- Koushik Dey Bappi, staff reporter of Khulna bureau of Kaler Kantha, joint secretary-Rashidul Islam Bablu of Dainik Janmohumi and treasurer-Mahendra Nath Sen, senior staff reporter of Dainik Prabartan. Mostafa Kamal Ahmed of Dainik Prabaho and Sayeduzzaman Samrat of Dainik Purbanchal were elected members of the new committee. A total of 67 out of 74 votes were cast by voters in the election held at Khulna Press Club yesterday. A three-member election committee headed by additional deputy commissioner (Rev) Khan Mohammad Rezaul Karim conducted the election.

### Pabna Bar poll results

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pro-Awami League (AL) panel has swept Pabna Bar Association election by bagging nine out of 13 posts on Thursday. Pro-AL panel led by advocates Abdul Matin Miah and Aminul Islam Potal won the election by defeating pro-BNP panel led by advocates Azizul Haque and Nurul Islam. Advocate Abdul Matin Miah was elected president while AKM Samsul Huda and Md Abdur Rouf vice presidents, Md Aminul Islam Potal- secretary, ASM Ismail Hossain-treasurer and Ali Amjad Kaderi- joint secretary. Other elected members are Md Palash Uddin, Md Abdul Alim, Md Abul Hashem and Amina Khatun. Voters cast 282 out of 295 votes on the election day.

### TIB forms human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Natore unit yesterday morning formed a human chain in front of Natore Press Club demanding reconsideration of a cabinet proposal for amendment to ACC Act 2004. Addressing a rally, president of TIB Natore unit Amzad Hossain said the present government's electoral pledge was to strengthen ACC, but actually the government is doing the opposite by making amendment to ACC Act. "We hope the government will reconsider its move, otherwise the government itself will become the worst sufferer," he cautioned. TIB Natore unit member Poritosh Adhikari said, curbing corruption is impossible unless and until the ACC is strengthened. It will be nothing but cheating with people if the government goes away from its electoral pledges, he added. If the ACC is unable to work independently, its negative impact falls on human rights, the speakers said. So, they urged the government to reconsider the cabinet proposal.



**Election Commission Secretariat**  
Preparation of Electoral Roll with Photographs and  
Facilitating the Issuance of National Identity Card Project  
Islamic Foundation Building  
Agargaon, Dhaka

No. PERP&FINIDC/Ops/040/480 Date: 27 January 2011

**Request of Expressions of Interest  
For  
Information Technology Consulting Firm**

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh intends to apply for financing from the World Bank (WB) towards the cost of the proposed Identification System for Enhanced Access to Services (IDEA) project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the contract for Information Technology Consulting (ITC).

The services include: (i) making an assessment of the current Information Technology (IT) environment in the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC) in terms of infrastructure - software and hardware, management information system (MIS), databases to design the ultimate future data communication network for national identification system of Bangladeshi citizens; (ii) assisting in the procurement of data communication network; and (iii) supervising and certifying the installation of data communications network under this project.

The Project Director, Proposed Identification System for Enhanced Access to Services (IDEA) Project, Bangladesh Election Commission now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (e.g. brochures, descriptions of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc).

The EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following:

- Registration of firm
- Age of firm
- Availability of key professionals
- Availability of resources
- Experience of the firm in similar task
- Experience of the firm in other works
- Support services of the firm

Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications, but should mention whether the association is in the form of a "joint venture" or "sub consultancy". In the case of an association, all members of such "association" should have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and it is preferable to limit the total number of firms including their associates to maximum of four.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers May 2004 (Revised October 2006 and May 2010).

Interested consultants are requested to collect detailed TOR from the address below during office hours 0900 to 1700 hours on working days only.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address as mentioned by 15 March 2011.

**Akhtaruzzaman Siddique, psc,te**  
Brigadier General  
Project Director (Proposed)  
Proposed Identification System for Enhanced  
Access to Services (IDEA) Project  
Bangladesh Election Commission Secretariat  
Islamic Foundation Building  
Agargaon, Dhaka  
Phone: 8153195  
Fax: 8153005  
e-mail: pdperpec@gmail.com  
website: www.ecs.gov.bd

## Tortured housewife commits suicide

### Indigenous woman raped

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A housewife brutally tortured by in-laws committed suicide in Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur while criminals raped an indigenous woman in Matiranga upazila of Khagrachhari early Friday

A housewife at Hasenpara in Mithapukur upazila committed suicide on Friday morning as torture and ignominy by in-laws and husband became too much to bear for her, reports our Rangpur correspondent.

Shefali Rani, who had continued to live at her father-in-law's house after the death of her husband Pulin Kanti Barmon, secretly married her brother-in-law Mrinal Kanti Barmon in a court in 2005,

said Mamunur Rashid, a sub-inspector of Mithapukur police station.

Three days ago, the matter of marriage between Mrinal and Shefali became disclosed.

When Mrinal was outside the house on Thursday, Shefali's father-in-law Binod Kanti Barmon and other in-laws chastised her for 'illegal' marriage, beat her, painted her face with black colour and made her move around the village with shoes hanging from his neck.

Hearing the incident in the evening, Mrinal got aggrieved and asked Shefali why she had agreed to move around the village in a disgraceful position, the SI said.

As Shefali did not answer to his question, Mrinal beat her at night.

Shefali committed suicide by taking poison early in the morning.

Police arrested Mrinal and his father Binod from their house.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent adds: Criminals raped an indigenous woman at Porabari village in Taindong union under Matiranga upazila of Khagrachhari hill district on Friday.

Six to eight people led by Md Babul Mia from Baddhapara area and Suruj Mia from Muslimpara area under the same upazila in the district entered the victim's house at 3:00am of Friday, police and family sources said.

The gang beat up the woman's husband, took her to a nearby bush and raped her.



PHOTO: STAR

The representative of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to Bangladesh, Ad Spijkers distributes agriculture inputs including power tillers among farmers at Fakirhat in Bagerhat district yesterday.