

## Rumana's eyes

FROM PAGE 20  
Meanwhile, Rumana's assaultor husband Hasan Sayeed Sumon yesterday confessed to trying to strangle her in a planned way.

"Sumon admitted that he planned to kill his wife, but he did not say clearly how, when and why he wanted to do that," said Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Detective Branch (DB South) Monirul Islam, who was grilling Sumon on demand.

A Dhaka court on Thursday placed Sumon on a two-day remand in an attempt-to-murder case.

Quoting Sumon, the DC said Rumana was working with a computer in her father's room on June 5. Her daughter Anusha was there with her. All on a sudden Sumon entered the room and locked the door from inside. He then swooped on Rumana and pushed his fingers in her eyes and dragged her by hair on the floor.

Seeing this, the daughter screamed out for help. Their domestic helps forced him away from Rumana, the DC said, adding, "Had the help come late, Rumana would have been dead."

Sumon escaped right after the incident.

The DB official said they would talk to the victim, her daughter and the domestic helps to get a clear picture of the incident.

## CU student

FROM PAGE 20  
his body hanging from the ceiling fan around 7:30pm after the house owner and his elder brother Md Osman informed them.

"Finding the door of his [Lokman] room closed from inside for a long time, I informed the house owner," said Osman.

Lokman, who used to live with his elder brother at Sikder Bhaban, left a note mentioning "No one is responsible for my death," police said.

He became ill after sitting two papers of his third year final exam held in last March, Osman said adding that he could not sit for the remaining exams due to the illness.

"Since then he remained sad. He might have committed suicide due to frustration," Osman added.

The body was sent to his village home in Kishoreganj for burial, said Abdur Rouf, officer-in-charge of the police station.

## Rape 'tools of war' in Libya: Hillary

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton accused the forces of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi on Thursday of using rape and violence against women as "tools of war."

Hillary said the United States was "deeply concerned" by reports of widespread rape in Libya and "troubled" by reports that governments across the Middle East and North Africa were using sexual violence to punish protesters.

"Rape, physical intimidation, sexual harassment, and even so-called 'virginity tests' have taken place in countries throughout the region," she said in a statement.

"Gaddafi's security forces and other groups in the region are trying to divide the people by using violence against women and rape as tools of war, and the United States condemns this in the strongest possible terms."

International Criminal Court prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said last week that there was evidence the Libyan authorities bought "Viagra-type" medicines and gave them to troops as part of an official rape policy.

Clinton mentioned Iman al-Obeidi, whose accusations of rape against soldiers loyal to Gaddafi garnered worldwide attention when she stormed into the Rixos hotel in Tripoli -- where many Western journalists were based -- and threw open her coat to reveal scars and bruises on her body.

## Tidal surges

FROM PAGE 1  
single-decker launches in all 20 internal routes of the district yesterday.

Vast areas of all seven upazilas of the district got flooded by the tidal surge.

All ferry terminals in the district went under water disrupting road communication. Pontoons of Cox's Bazar, Teknaf, Moheshkhali and Kutubdia also went under 3-4 feet water.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Halishahar, Agrabad and coastal areas of Patenga were waterlogged after the 2-4 feet higher-than-usual tidal surge.

Five fishing trawlers sank in the Meghna in the tidal surge and bad weather in Telichar area of Ramgati upazila Friday afternoon, UNB reports.

Locals said the surge was 3-4 feet high. Belal Hossain, chairman of Char Abdullapur union, said heavy rain damaged 10-15 houses in Telichar and inundated many char areas leaving 15,000 people marooned.

Our correspondent Manikgani said ferry service on Patuari-Dauladia route resumed at 9:30am yesterday after a 12-hour disruption due to stormy weather.

Hundreds of vehicles including buses were seen waiting on both sides of the Padma.

According to a special bulletin from the Met office, the depression over south-western part of Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal moved slightly north-northwestwards, weakened into a land depression and was still hovering over the Ganges delta area of West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh.

It is likely to move in land further in a north-northwesterly direction and gradually weaken, said the Bulletin.

Squally weather may continue near maritime ports and coastal areas of Bangladesh and it is likely to improve later today, said an official of the Met office.

## Workers Party

FROM PAGE 1  
protesters to set up an interim ruling council, which would prevent Saleh returning to power.

On Wednesday, Hadi met representatives of youth protests which have raged since late January demanding the ouster of Saleh. They pressed him to give a clear stance on their demands, and gave him two weeks to respond.

The meeting followed talks between Hadi and the parliamentary opposition in which they agreed on calming the situation as a first step towards reviving the political process.

They also urged the lawmakers not to approve any proposal that goes against the fundamental principles of the constitution.

Chaired by party President Rashed Khan Menon, the meeting was also addressed by party General Secretary Anisur Rahman Mallick.

With low stocks and sticky demand the report found that weather-related production variations have become a "prime source of international price stability", as evidenced by soaring prices following a drought in Russia and wet weather in the United States last year.

"Weather-related crop yield variations are expected to become an even more critical driver of price volatility in the future," the report said.

They foresee price rises of 15 percent for rice; 20 percent for maize, vegetable oils and sugar; 30 percent for poultry, and nearly 50 percent for butter.

The OECD and FAO expect global agricultural production to grow at 1.7 percent annually on average over this decade, down from 2.6 percent last decade. Production per capita is still projected to rise 0.7 percent annually.

The report also foresees further robust growth in the use of agricultural products to make biofuels.

By 2020, the OECD and FAO expect 13 percent of global coarse grain production, 15 percent of oil production and 30 percent of sugar cane production to be used to make biofuels.

Higher oil prices would encourage further use of agricultural feedstocks for biofuel production, they noted, and may make it viable in some countries without government policy support.

The Alaei brothers are regarded as pioneers of AIDS treatment in Iran, where discussions about sex and drugs are often taboo.

His presidential term is due to end in 2013.

## Bumper

FROM PAGE 20  
during Chaitra, the last month of the spring.

According to Madhupur agriculture office, pineapple has been cultivated on 7,500 hectares of land in Idilpur, Sholakuri, Dokhala, Beibaid, Kailakuri, Hagurkuri, Pirgachha, Alokdia, Aushnara, Digor Baid, Arunkhola, Laofa, Raniad, Moter Bazar, Jalchhatra, Garo Bazar and Rasulpur areas of the upazila.

The fruit was grown on 7,300 hectares of land in 2010 while on 7,000 hectares in 2009, 6,500 hectares in 2008 and 5,550 hectares in 2007.

"We are expecting around 1 lakh tonnes of pineapples in the upazila," said an agriculture official.

The farmers of the upazila expect a higher yield of around 18 to 20 tonnes per hectare. They used less amount of plant hormone this year, said a farmer.

Limited use of hormones has boosted the demand for pineapples from Madhupur and the local farmers are getting Tk 12 to 13, Tk 2 to 3 more than that of the last year, on each fruit, said Abdul Mannan, a pineapple farmer of Sholakuri.

Hormone is usually used here to grow bigger pineapples and ripen those.

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## Saleh won't

FROM PAGE 20  
call on the first day of a two-day meeting of the party's central committee at its headquarters in the capital, returning to power.

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The pair, known for their efforts to help drug addicts infected with HIV and improve conditions for sick prisoners, were not allowed to work as doctors while behind bars.

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The ruling General People's Congress and government officials have been adamant that Saleh was quickly recovering and that he would return to Yemen soon.

Saleh, who has been in power since 1978, has steadfastly refused to endorse a Gulf states proposal for him to transfer power to his deputy and resign in return for parliamentary immunity against prosecution.

She is asking BNP to propose a new formula of caretaker government.

On the other hand, BNP and its allies enforced a 36-hour non-stop shutdown across the country from Sunday dawn and their demands include continuous

## Graft documents

FROM PAGE 1

graft suspects got re-appointed and promoted on grounds of unavailability of any evidence or documents of their misdeeds.

The communications ministry formed a committee on October 24 last year to investigate appointments, promotion and corruption of Shahab Uddin and Bangladesh Railway Director General TA Chowdhury.

The probe body headed by Joint Secretary (Development) Mohammad Mostafa found nothing wrong with the officials or their activities. The other two committee members are Deputy Secretary Mohammad Amin and Senior Assistant Secretary Ilias Hossain.

The probe body was formed in the face of media criticism of the appointment and promotion of the officers and under pressure from the parliamentary standing committee on communications ministry.

The committee in its

report in February said the communications minister ordered departmental action against those who made confessions to the Tac as per the Government Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rule, 1985.

"But there was no information about who went to Tac, what confessions they made and what kind of offences they committed," says the report.

The ministry had to halt the process on legal grounds, it says.

The commerce minister said he would surely take action against the graft suspects, if evidence against them was found.

He said many of those who faced the Tac claim the then administration had forced them to make confessions.

The minister said the officers were given appointment and promotion after getting the nod from the law ministry.

On the missing documents, Abul Hossain said he

would enquire about the matter.

The probe body enquired about Shahab Uddin's freedom fighter certificate that he submitted to return to government service after his retirement. There have been allegations that his freedom fighter certificate is fake, but the committee could not prove it.

Shahab Uddin went on retirement on completion of 57 years in service on November 18, 2009. He rejoined the RHD on December 14 the same year after the government extended the service age of freedom fighter employees by two years.

On assumption of office in 2009, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed pledged to take action against the public servants who confessed to their guilt before the Tac. But nothing has been done so far.

On the contrary, many government officials, who confessed to their involvement in corruption, have been rewarded.

## BNP defers

FROM PAGE 1

the caretaker system in the charter.

It also postponed yesterday's preparatory meeting between Alamgir and Rajshahi leaders to finalise the road march route.

Central BNP leader Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu told The Daily Star yesterday that they were ready to hold the meeting but it was cancelled according to a party decision.

Alamgir said the party will announce its next agitation programmes today to protest the government move to abolish the caretaker government system.

The party may go for a series of countrywide demonstrations including protest rallies and processions, say party insiders.

Khaleda on Thursday reiterated her stance on the issue, and said the caretaker system must remain unchanged in the constitution. She also turned down the ruling party's suggestion to return to parliament with a new formula for the caretaker system.

Alamgir said their agitation will continue and the prime minister will be forced to bow down to the people's demand to retain the caretaker system in the constitution.

The caretaker system must continue. There is no scope for talks with the government on this issue. BNP will not participate in the next election, if not held under a non-partisan caretaker government," he told reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of party founder Ziaur Rahman.

Party vice chairman Hafizuddin Ahmed and Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, released on bail on June 15, also placed wreaths at Zia's grave. The two leaders were arrested in the capital during the opposition enforced 36-hour hartal across the country.

## Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"It's important that the compound of UNMIS can become a sort of safe area where civilians are effectively protected," France's UN ambassador Arnaud told reporters after a Security Council meeting.

A UN peacekeeping spokesman said the company of Bangladesh troops had been sent to Kadugli and that the area around the UN compound had become a safe haven to protect civilians.

UN peacekeeping chief Alain Le Roy told the Security Council that up to 6,000 people were camped out around the base. The United Nations estimates that 60,000 have been displaced by the fighting in South Kordofan alone, including about 70 percent of the population of Kadugli.

The Security Council is to get a briefing on Monday from former South African president Thabo Mbeki and UN envoy Haile Menkerios on attempts to seal a peace deal between the north and south governments.

Araud said that if there was no agreement by Monday the Security Council would have to "express itself in very strong terms to call for an end to the violence."

## Indian army

FROM PAGE 20