

## Domestic help 'killed after rape'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A domestic help was allegedly murdered after being raped in Jessore.

The 13-year-old girl succumbed to her injuries at Jessore Medical College Hospital on Thursday.

She used to work for Chunnu Mia, who lived in Shostitolapara area of Jessore. Chunnu and his family went into hiding after the incident.

Sub-Inspector Abdul Mannan said one Abul Kashim, who admitted Manjuara at the hospital, wrote in the hospital's register that she tried to commit suicide.

However, Abdul said they found evidence of torture and rape on the body, and added that they are waiting for the post-mortem before taking any

KHALEDA'S MASS CONTACT DRIVE  
BNP warns of non-stop hartal if obstructed

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP yesterday threatened to announce non-stop hartal and railway blockade if the government bars the opposition chief, Khaleda Zia, from conducting her mass contact campaign in the capital on December 26.

Khaleda will address five roadside rallies during her daylong campaign to pile pressure on the government to reinstate the caretaker government system.

BNP coordinator Tariqul Islam said, "Begum Zia's mass contact drive will be peaceful. If the government obstructs it, tougher programmes, like non-stop hartal for three or four days and railway blockade, will follow."

"We (BNP) will have no option but to announce agitation programmes if the government does not allow us to conduct the campaign," he told journalists at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

Tariqul, a BNP standing committee member, said for the five roadside rallies, the capital was divided into five zones--Mirpur-Gabtoli, Ramna-Tejgaon, Sutrapur-Demra, Khilgaon-Sobujbag, Badda-Gulshan and Uttara. The drive will start at 11:00am from Mirpur, he said.

DHAKA, SOUTHERN REGION

## Fog disrupts river, road communications

METRO DESK

Hundreds of people bound for the southern districts were stranded on the way yesterday as river and road communications remained suspended for 8-10 hours amid low visibility level caused by thick fog.

The launches, which started from Dhaka around 10:00pm on Thursday night, reached Barisal port 8-10 hours late, said Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice president of Barisal Launch Owners Association, reports our Barisal correspondent.

In the adverse weather conditions, the vessels without fog lights had to remain anchored at different points in the river Meghna till about 8:30am. Barisal Met office said the fog was too thick around

1:00am yesterday to see things just 40-50 metres apart.

Road communications between Dhaka and southern districts were also disrupted for about 10 hours when ferry operation on Mawa-Keurakandi and Paturia-Daulatdia routes on the Padma was stopped amid reduced visibility, said Alamgir Hossain, president of Barisal Bus Owners Association.

An official of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) said around 1,500 vehicles had to line up on the both sides of the Padma overnight as four ferries on Paturia-Daulatdia route were anchored in mid-river around 1:00am when dense fog was hanging over, reports our Manikganj correspondent.

## Couple die in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A couple were killed as a motorbike they were riding was hit by a truck on Balashpur bypass in Mymensingh town yesterday noon.

The victims were identified as Sumon Das, 30, son of Bidhubushan Das, secretary of Gouripur upazila unit of Awami League, and Sumon's wife Nasreen Akhtar, 25.

The accident took place when the Mymensingh bound truck from Dhaka hit the motorcycle from the opposite direction at about 1:00pm, leaving the couple dead on the spot, said Abu Fazlul Karim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

Following a relationship, Sumon Das got married to his neighbour Nasreen only one year ago, police said.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the truck and held its driver Abdul Alim, 50, from the spot.

Following the accident, vehicular movement on the road was disrupted for an hour, the police added.



## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurjahan Seraji, widow of martyred intellectual and journalist Serajuddin Hossain, passed away at a hospital in the capital early yesterday. She was 73.

She left behind her eight sons, a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

She was buried at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur after a namaz-e-janaza at Baitus Salam mosque at Mohammadpur following Juma prayers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of Nurjahan. She prayed for her eternal peace and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Several organisations and dignitaries also expressed shock at her death.

The qulkhani of Nurjahan will be held at her Mohammadpur residence on December 24 after Maghrib prayers.

Serajuddin Hossain, former executive and news editor of the daily Ittefaq, was among the intellectuals who were killed during the Liberation War.

On December 10, 1971, the Pakistani occupation army and their collaborators, Razakar and Al-Badr, abducted him from his Chamelibagh house in the capital and he never returned.



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