

Clay pots are being transported on a boat from Savar through the Bosila river for selling those at a good price in the capital.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## Case filed over 4 murders in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A case has been filed over the killing of four people, including the wife of a union parishad chairman, in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj.

Mamun, brother-in-law the UP chairman, filed the murder case with Sonargaon Police Station without naming anyone on Saturday night.

On Saturday morning, Shamima Akhter, the second wife of Pirojpur UP Chairman Rafiqul Islam; her brother Rana, and two domestic helps were found dead with throats slit in their house at Jhauchhara village.

Sonargaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Atiqur Rahman said they suspect that it was a planned murder as nothing was lost from the house after the incident.

The bodies have been handed over to the relatives of the victims after medical examinations at Narayanganj General Hospital, he said.

The house's guard, Lala Mian, and Rafiqul's driver, Shah Alam, were picked up for questioning in this connection, he added.

Rafiqul, also vice-president of Sonargaon BNP, said they had no enemy. Miscreants killed them as they witnessed robbery of gold ornaments in the house.

## DEFAMATION CASE AGAINST MAHMUDUR Sylhet court sets May 30 for hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Chief Judicial Magistrate Abu Syed Dilzar Hossain yesterday set May 30 to hear a defamation case filed against Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman as Kotwali police was yet to submit an investigation report to his court.

The case was filed with the court on April 3 accusing Mahmudur Rahman; Hashmat Ali, the daily's publisher; Kader Gani Chowdhury, reporter; and Jamil Chowdhury, chairman, Bangladesh Female Academy (a school for orphans).

Sylhet city Jubo League Publicity Secretary Humayun Rashid Lovelu, of Derai upazila in Sunamganj, in his case statement, said a news item, published in the daily on March 31 stating that minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta demanded bribe Tk 3 crore from Jamil so that he could get a fund for the school, was untrue.

Publication of the news defamed the minister, he said demanding arrest warrant against the accused persons.

## SALARIES OF LOWER COURT JUDGES No new law needed Legal experts tell SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government did not need to formulate a law regarding the salaries and other benefits of the lower court judges, as the Supreme Court had already directed for raising their allowances, three senior legal experts told the SC yesterday.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Rafique-ul Huq and AF Hasan Ariff were placing arguments as amici curiae (friends of court) before the Appellate Division of SC during its hearing on the Masdar Hossain Case, popularly known as judiciary separation case.

On April 16, the government submitted a time petition to the apex court, saying that the government was planning to formulate a law in this regard.

Yesterday, the 10-member bench of the

division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain fixed today for hearing arguments from five other amici curiae -- TH Khan, Mahmudul Islam, Dr M Zahir, Rokanuddin Mahmud and Tawfique Newaz -- on this issue.

On March 14, the SC had directed the government to increase the pay scale of the judicial officials by 30 percent instead of 20 percent proposed by the government by April 15.

Earlier, the SC expressed annoyance with the government through Attorney General Mahbubey Alam for its delay in rising the salaries and benefits.

In 2008, the Judicial Service Pay Commission had recommended providing lower court judges additional allowances equivalent to their basic monthly salaries and increasing other amenities.

## TOKI MURDER Culprits will be punished: MKA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday said those responsible for the murder of Tanvir Mohammad Toki would be arrested and brought to book.

He further said none would be spared and police had been already directed in this regard.

The minister was addressing a meeting after handing over a harbour patrol boat for the coast guards manufactured by Narayanganj Dockyard Engineering and Works in Sonakanda area in Bandar upazila yesterday afternoon.

Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Dr Selina Hayat Ivy, Bangladesh Coast Guard Director General Rear Admiral Kazi Sarwar Hossain and Narayanganj

Dockyard Engineering and Works Commodore Khurshid Malik were also present at the function.

Dr Selina Hayat Ivy said guardians were afraid of sending their children to schools due to the deterioration of law and order in the city.

Meanwhile, a Narayanganj court placed Saleh Rahman Simanto on a 5-day remand in connection with the murder of Tanvir Mohammad Toki.

SM Manjur Kader, officer-in-charge of Sadar Model Police Station, said members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) -11 handed Simanto over to police on April 18.

Tanvir Mohammad Toki was found dead on the bank of the Shitalakkhya river in Narayanganj on March 8, two days after he went missing.



Teachers and employees under the banner of "Shikhhak Karmachari Oikkyo Jote" form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding release of Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman.

PHOTO: STAR



Seeking relief from the scorching heat, a pedestrian drinks so-called juice sold on the roadside. Inset, the 'juices' are made in an unsanitary environment and with harmful colours. The photo was taken at Farmgate in the capital on Friday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Bangladesh able to develop institutions for agriculture

Says visiting IRRI official STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh was able to develop strong institutions for agricultural advancements, said visiting Deputy Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Dr Achim Dobermann yesterday.

He was addressing a two-day workshop titled "Developing IRRI-Bangladesh Country Strategy" at the auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) in the capital.

IRRI would collaborate closely with both public and private sectors in Bangladesh for further research and development in agriculture, he added.

Planning commission member Dr Sattar Mandal expressed deep concern over sliding down of profitability in rice farming because of comparatively low market price of the staple and high production costs.

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