

## Manikganj UZ chairman held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Manikganj Sadar upazila chairman was arrested yesterday while he was distributing leaflets to the passerby and shop keepers in the district town. The arrestee is Ataur Rahman Ata, chairman of Manikganj Sadar Upazila and also former president of district Jubo Dal. As part of central BNP's programme, Ataur launched the programme around 10:30 am in the Khalpar area of Shahid Rafique Sarak in the town. Police seized the leaflets from him in the Manikganj Government High School area and arrested him from in front of Syed Market.

## Newborn found dead in carton in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A newborn was found dead inside a carton in Charkomlapur area of the town on Wednesday morning. Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the carton in the area around 7:00am, said AFM Nasim, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station. Someone dumped the body in the area, hiding his or her crime, said the OC. The body was buried under Anjuman Mufidul Islam at Alipur Municipality graveyard on Wednesday noon, said the police official.



Grief-stricken family members of Mali mine blast victim UN peacekeeper Md Rayhan at his Somasnari village home in Pabna's Santhia upazila. Right, mother of another peacekeeper Jamal Uddin wails his death, holding his son at their Ghaissapara village home in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## FOUR PEACEKEEPERS KILLED IN MALI MINE BLAST

# Families reeling from shock

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Wednesday's mine explosion near Douentza in Mopti region of Mali put a tragic end to the lives of four Bangladeshi peacekeepers and injured four others. Air became heavy with grief as the death news of UN peacekeeper Jamal Uddin reached his family members at Ghaissapara village in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj, reports our correspondent. Jamal Uddin joined Bangladesh Army as a soldier in 2005. He married Fahima Akhtar Shilpi about seven years ago and they have a five and a half years-old son. He went to Mali as a member of UN peacekeeping force in May, 2017, said family members. "I became speechless after an army officer informed me of my

son's death over mobile on Wednesday night. Later, I informed other family members," said Jamal's father Meser Ali, a cattle trader. Jamal's wife Shilpi said, "Jamal often told me that he wants to get his son admitted to a cadet college so that he could become an army officer. But the tragic death put an end to his dream." Our Pabna Correspondent reports: "Only a day ago, my father called me to say that he would return from his mission after two months but he is no more," said Ishrat Jahan, six years old daughter of Md Rayhan, a soldier of Bangladesh Army, who went to UN peacekeeping mission in Mali 10 months ago. Journalists visited the deceased's house at Somasnari village of Pabna's Santhia upazila yesterday.



Jamal Uddin



Md Rayhan



Abul Kalam Azad

"I talked with my husband on Wednesday afternoon. He told me that he would come back to the country after two months. I could not believe my ears when I came to know of the tragic accident from TV news around 10:00 pm on Wednesday," said Rayhan's wife Sohana Khatun. "My brother was a dutiful soldier. The mine explosion has put a tragic end to his life. Our family lost an important member

while the country lost a patriotic son," said Atik Al Hasan, cousin of the victim. Our Pirojpur Correspondent adds: Warrant Officer Abul Kalam Azad, one of the four Bangladeshi peacekeepers killed in a mine explosion near Douentza in Mopti region of Mali on Wednesday, hails from Uttar Kalardoaniya village under Kalardoaniya union of Nazirpur upazila in Pirojpur. He was son of late Md Makbul

Hossain. His wife Khadiza Khatun is an assistant teacher of Mugarjhor Girls' Dakhil Madrasa in Nazirpur. They have a daughter and a son. "Azad joined Bangladesh Army in September, 1992. On May 20 last year, he went to Mali as a UN peacekeeping force member. Within three months, he would go on retirement after returning from the peacekeeping mission," said Shahidul Islam, cousin of the deceased. "Realising the matter from the behaviour of other family members, his wife has broken down in tears," Shahidul said, urging the government to bring back the body to his village and take special care for the bereaved family.

## Habiganj trader killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A trader was stabbed to death by unknown assailants in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj early yesterday. The deceased was Abul Hossain, 60, president of Chunarughat Business Welfare Association. KM Azimuruzzaman, OC of Chunarughat Police Station, said a gang stabbed Abul near Balla rail station when he was returning home after Fazr prayers. Later, he died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said the OC. As the death news spread, local traders shut down their shops and held a rally protesting the murder.

## Woman kills mother-in-law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A woman was hacked to death allegedly by her daughter-in-law in Gafargaon upazila on Wednesday. The victim was Romiza Khatun, 60, wife of late Shamsul Haque Akanda of Barobaria village. Police said Khadija Begum, 32, wife of Ismail Hossain attacked Romiza with a kitchen knife at night, leaving her dead on the spot following a family feud. On information, police arrested Khadiza in connection with the incident. The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Md Abdul Ahad Khan, officer-in-charge of Gafargaon Police Station.



The coastguard seizes a boat with 10,000 metres of banned nets and three lakh parshey spawn from the Shibus river at Mozamanagar in Paikgachha upazila of Bagerhat a few days ago. PHOTO: STAR

# Fish stock under threat

## Spawn netting rampant in Sundarbans

PARITHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

A section of unscrupulous people have continued using current and mono filament nets for catching fish and spawn in different rivers and canals in the Sundarbans, posing threat to indigenous fish stock in the area. Although the fishermen mainly target catching and sale of larvae of parshey and patary fishes as well as shrimp and prawn, more than 100 species of fishes and their larvae are netted. The rest are thrown away as waste, said Amzad Sheikh, a fisherman of Kalmibunia village of Kachua upazila under the district. A section of traders make advance payment to the fishermen to supply parshey, patary, shrimp and prawn larvae to the owners of fish enclosures. After getting the money, they go to

the Sundarbans to catch the larvae in Dubalar Char, Batlurchar, Chacha Nangla, Kalir Char, Gera Chalaki, Hangsaraj, Andarmanik, Dhangmari and Chichkhali areas, he said. "Catching of all kinds of fish spawn is prohibited in the Sundarbans. But some unscrupulous people are netting it illegally after receiving permit for other purposes from the forest department," said Shaheen Kabir, assistant range officer of East Sundarbans. "As they are using current nets and mono-filament nets to catch fishes, many kinds of fish larvae are caught. And a large portion of the netted larvae die before keeping in water pots," he added. "We are continuing our drives against the dishonest fishermen," he said. Captain Minarul Haque, zonal

commander of Coast Guard's West Zone (Mongla), said, "We are continuing operations to check netting of spawn in Dublar Char, Hangsaraj, Andarmanik, Dhangmari, Batlurchar, Chacha Nangla, Kalir Char, Gera Chalaki, Chichkhali areas adjacent to the Sundarbans. "During drives on February 17 and February 20, we arrested a fisherman on the Sandha river beside the Sundarbans with five lakh parshey spawn, seized one lakh metres of current nets and one lakh metres of other nets used for catching shrimp, hilsha and parshey, he added. Mahamudul Hasan, divisional forest officer of East Sundarbans, said he is aware of the matter and trying to stop the illegal practice to save the aquatic environment of the Sundarbans.

## 3-day Lalon festival begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The three-day Lalon Smaran Utshab (Lalon Memorial Festival) began at the shrine of Lalon Shah at Chheuria in the district yesterday evening. Introduced by Lalon himself, the festival is held every year to celebrate Dol Purnima. Lalon Academy, a locally elected body to look after the bard's shrine, is organising the festival with assistance of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The organisers have completed all arrangements to ensure an enjoyable festival. Awami League Joint General Secretary, also lawmaker of Kushtia-3, Mahbulul Alam Hanif inaugurated the event. Deputy Commissioner Zahir Raihan presided over the three-day event. The event features discussions, a musical programme featuring baul songs and a Lalon Mela. A large number of devotees of Lalon have gathered at the shrine to commemorate the creator, promoter and pioneer of a particular variety of folk songs. The festival will end on Saturday night.

## Intern assaulted by BCL leader

Shahzaman expelled from party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was expelled from the organisation yesterday for assaulting an intern of a hospital. Shahzaman Bin Shahid, who was organising secretary of Kushtia district unit BCL, was expelled following an emergency meeting of the organisation. "BCL found evidence of Shahzaman's involvement in the incident and expelled him," said Kushtia unit BCL General Secretary Sa'ad Ahmed. Kushtia General Hospital Resident Medical Officer Tapos Kumar Sarker said Basir Ahmed, 60, of Milpara area in the town was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday morning and died the same day. Relatives of the victim, who was maternal uncle of Shahzaman, alleged that doctors' negligence caused his death. Hearing the news Shahzaman rushed to the hospital with his men and abused the doctors, nurses and other staff. They assaulted Humayra Islam, an intern of Kushtia Medical College Hospital, temporarily working at Kushtia General Hospital, and ransacked her room. The interns declared a strike yesterday until punishment of the BCL men. Superintendent of Police (SP) ASM Mehedi Hasan told the interns that police have arrested two BCL activists involved in the incident. The arrestees are Russel Hasan, BCL activist and cousin of Shahzaman, and Anjan Hasan, an activist of Kushtia Government College unit BCL. The SP asked the interns to withdraw the strike, which they did. He said a drive is on to arrest Shahzaman.



Shahzaman

## Youth jailed for 14 years for abducting schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court on Wednesday sentenced a youth to 14 years' imprisonment for abducting a schoolgirl in 2013. District and Sessions Judge, also Judge of Panchagarh Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Abu Monsur Md Ziaul Haque, pronounced the verdict. The court also fined him Tk 50,000, in default, to suffer two years more in jail. The convict is Nur Islam, alias Babu Mia, 24, son of Abdul Mannan of Kalai Thupimara village in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat. According to the case statement, Babu, Jewel Hossain and Tajel Hossain forced a girl into a microbus in Boda upazila on October 22 in 2013 while she was going to school. Victim's father Md Tabibar Rahman filed a case with Boda Police Station the next day, accusing Babu, Jewel and Tajel. A few days later, police rescued the girl from Babu's house while he was absent.



People from all walks of life celebrate the Holi festival with the members of Harijan community at Harijan colony in Pabna town yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

# A different Holi for the Harijans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

People of the Harijan community in the town experienced a very different kind of Holi yesterday when people from all walks of life went to their colony to celebrate the festival with them. The event was organised by youth organisation Gen YZ. "People from the privileged society never go to the under-privileged community to share the feeling of harmony during Holi festival, so we organised this event to remove social distances," Md Humayun Kabir,

group leader of Gen YZ, told this correspondent. "We intended to celebrate Holi with the Harijans, who are called 'untouchables,' to bring social harmony," he added. "It was a new experience for me when Harijan women covered me with colour and I did the same to them," said Boby Kundu, a student of Pabna Edward College and a member of Gen YZ. "Harijans keep our environment clean, but we never accept them in the civilised society. We have created the barrier of social caste and

call them untouchables," said Binoy Jati Kundu, secretary of Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikko Parishad. Champa Rani, an elderly woman of the Harijan community, said she never imagined that such a programme would be held for them. "We are called untouchables and nobody comes to us. But now many people who belong to the civilised society have come to us and shared the festival with us through throwing abir (coloured powder) at each other. This is a rare honour for us," Champa Rani said.