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## FLOOD WORSENING Mother drowns, her children missing

STAR REPORT

Fire service yesterday recovered the body of a woman who was washed away in a strong torrent with her two children while crossing a river at Chayar Hoar of Shalla upazila in Sunamganj district.

The body was identified to be of the 30-year-old Durlab Rani Das, wife of Rathindra Das from Bilpur Village of Habibpur Union of the upazila.

Her two children -- Joba Rani, aged 7, and Bijay Das, aged 5 -- remain missing. Efforts are underway to recover the missing children, said Abu Taleb, upazila nirbahi officer of Shalla upazila.

Subrata Das, a local who witnessed the incident, said he requested the woman not to cross the river, which had a strong current that submerged its culvert. She did not heed.

Meanwhile, water level in Jamuna River has been swelling to dangerous levels, inundating low-lying areas.

The water is flowing at Sirajganj hard point at 11.85 metres, which is just 1.05 metres below the danger level, according to the Water Development

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## TIPU, PRITY MURDER Charges against 33 accepted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted the charges brought against 33 people, including nine members of the ruling Awami League and its associate bodies, in the case filed over the killings of AL leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and college student Samia Afran Jamal Prity.

Afterwards, the magistrate issued arrest warrants against nine people, including two top-listed criminals Zeezan Ahmed alias Montu and Jafar Ahmed Manik alias Freedom Manik, as they were shown as "fugitives" in the charge sheet.

The magistrate also cancelled the bail of three accused -- Toufiq Hasan Babu, Moshiur Rahman Ikram and Arifur Rahman Sohel alias "Ghatok" Sohail -- and sent them to jail as their bail period expired yesterday.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order after scrutinising case dockets and other relevant documents.

He also directed officers in charge of the police stations concerned to submit by August 17 the progress report on the execution of the arrest warrants.

On June 5, Md Yasin Sikder, a DB inspector, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The criminals opened fire at Tipu's car in the capital's Shahjahanpur area on March 24 last year. Tipu and rickshaw passenger Prity were hurt.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Motorbikers park their vehicles under an exit ramp of the Hanif flyover at Sayedabad during rain yesterday blocking eastbound lanes. This resulted in long tailbacks.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Gono Odhikar Parishad descends into chaos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Gono Odhikar Parishad is on the verge of splitting up as Reza Kibria and Nurul Haque Nur have removed each other from the leadership positions.

At a meeting on Monday night, Nur, who is the member secretary, and the other leaders of the party removed Reza from the post of convener and replaced him with Rashed Khan, who was the joint convener.

A day later, Reza, currently abroad, issued a statement announcing that Nur and Rashed had been temporarily suspended from the party and both of them had been served with a notice to explain their conduct in seven days.

Founding convener Al Hasan Maman would be the acting member secretary, as per Reza's statement.

In response, Nur said Reza should not issue statements at whim.

"How can he remove us without holding a meeting? It is illegal. We made the decision [of replacing Reza] at a meeting," he added.

The party has been in turmoil for days as Nur and Reza often engaged in public spats over different issues.

Meanwhile, 45 members of Gono Odhikar's convener committee in a statement last night said they were concerned by the "mud slinging" evident division within the party.

They also formed a five-member committee to investigate the matters and determine the appropriate course of action in seven working days.

Reza often says that Nur and several other leaders of the party want to participate in the upcoming national election even though they represent a party that has "shunned the polls".

Besides, Nur does not disclose the source of the money that comes from abroad and he has yet to explain why he met an Israeli citizen, Reza said.

Nur, meanwhile, alleges that Reza regularly participates in the programmes of the Insaf Ka yem Committee led by Farhad Mazhar.

Besides, Reza harbours dreams of becoming the prime minister, Nur said.

When asked whether the party was splitting up, Reza said: "It seems the Gono Odhikar Parishad is splitting up. A section of the party may join in the election. But we will not."

Asked whether he will form any new party, he said: "We will not form a new one. The party is registered in my name. So, our party is a real party. They may make announcements, but as of now, there is no instance of a party led by its secretary."

Contacted, Nur said: "Reza Kibria is becoming a danger to the party. He is involved in different conspiracies and he tries to split up the party."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

NADIM MURDER  
Suspect Babu  
'threatened  
journo' four  
months ago

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Jamalpur

Suspended union parishad chairman Mahmudul Alam Babu, a suspect in the journalist Golam Rabbani Nadim murder case, reportedly threatened to teach Nadim a lesson around four months prior to his killing.

"It won't take more than a minute to teach Nadim a lesson," allegedly he said in an audio clip that has been making the rounds on social media.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the tape, but locals claimed that the voice is of Babu, also expelled general secretary of Sadhurpara union unit Awami League.

They said Babu also made spiteful comments against Nadim over the last few months.

Several local journalists and politicians told The Daily Star that Babu made the threat while addressing a meeting of his party's upazila unit.

"After hearing the audio clip, we can easily identify the speaker's voice. This

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Reza Kibria

Nurul Haque Nur

## NATURAL DISASTERS

### Indian police retain carrier pigeons as backup



REUTERS, Cuttack

Even in today's world of instant messaging, video calls, the internet and mobile telephones, police in India's eastern state of Odisha are preserving a flock of carrier pigeons for use when disasters sever communication links.

Dating from the days of British colonial rule when police stations used the birds to communicate with each other, the state's carrier pigeon service employs more than 100 Belgian Homer pigeons.

"We have kept the pigeons for their heritage value and to preserve them for future generations," said Satish Kumar Gajbhiye, an inspector general of police in the district of Cuttack.

Police said the pigeons, which can fly at a speed of 55 kph (34 mph), for up to 500 miles (800 km) at a stretch, have proved a lifeline at least twice in the last four decades.



A bull being taken to a cattle market in Postogola in the capital yesterday after being unloaded from a truck, not in frame. Traders believe sales will gradually pick up as Eid nears.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### Titanic tourist sub still missing Rescuers race against time

REUTERS

Rescuers were in a race against time to find a missing submersible yesterday, two days after it lost communication while taking wealthy tourists to see the wreckage of the Titanic in deep waters off Canada's coast.

One pilot and four passengers were on board the submersible that disappeared on Sunday. The operating company said it had the capacity to stay underwater for up to 96 hours - giving those aboard until early on Thursday before air ran out.

US Coast Guard Rear Admiral John Mauger in television interviews yesterday said rescuers continued their efforts overnight and were expanding their search into deeper waters, telling NBC News that authorities were prioritizing the area where the vessel was operating.

Those aboard the submersible, the highlight of a tourist expedition that costs \$250,000 per person, included British billionaire Hamish Harding and Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood with his son Suleman.

The 77-year-old French explorer

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2