

## NEWS SNAPS

### Meat sellers on strike

**UNB, Nilphamari**  
Meat sellers of Nilphamari district have gone for an indefinite strike from Monday in protest against the alleged police torture on them. They alleged that assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police Siraj picked up five meat sellers from Baburhat in Dimla upazila on Sunday and beat them up mercilessly.

### Mugger caught red-handed

**UNB, Natore**  
A mugger was caught red-handed while trying to rob a pedestrian in Gurudaspur upazila Sunday night. The mugger identified as Moktar swooped on Nur Hossain of village Charpara while he was returning home from Mosindabazar at 8:30pm and demanded money at gunpoint. But Nur Hossain with the help of local people caught Moktar. Later, he was handed over to local police.

### 2 women with phensidyl held

**UNB, Madaripur**  
Two women were arrested along with 60 bottles of phensidyl from near Ghatakhar bus stand in Sadar upazila on Wednesday. The arrested identified as Asma, 35, and Runa, 22, hailed from village Kaliganj of Jessore district. In another drive police recovered a revolver, a gun, five rounds of bullet and nine cartridges from Shaila village in Shibchar upazila on Tuesday.

### Shallow machines stolen

**UNB, Sirajganj**  
Thieves took away over 100 shallow machines from Chalan beel area of Tarash upazila Sunday night. The thieves stole the machines from 12 villages, including Kaliboira, Khan Kuina, Maj Baria, Magura Binod, Shempur, Dobira. The theft just before the commencement of the current IRRI-boro season will seriously affect the cultivation. The farmers filed general diary (GD) in this connection.

## Steps to ensure free & fair UP elections

# Helicopters will be used in 15 inaccessible Bandarban centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper steps have been taken to ensure free and fair union parishad (UP) elections.

**BSS from Bandarban reports:** The administration has taken up a decision to use helicopters for conducting union parishad (UP) upazilas of Bandarban hill district.

Police Super Md Rafiqul Islam told that the remote and inaccessible polling centres have been identified at Alikadam, Ruma Thanchi and Ruangchhari upazilas.

The Air Force helicopters will be used for carrying ballot papers and other related materials including polling officials.

The district administration also decided to deploy adequate number of police and Ansars in every polling centres in seven upazilas of the

district to ensure free and fair elections. Meanwhile, a report from

### Three killed in Fatikchhari bus mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Three persons were killed and 17 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch at Baroihat in Fatikchhari upazila on Friday morning.

Police identified the dead as Shafiullah, 45, Shahera Begum, 30, and her two-year-old son Sakhawat. They died on the way to Nazirhat Health Complex.

Jhenidah says: This year 10 candidates have been fighting from jail in the UP elections here.

All of them will contest for ward membership. They are Manirul Islam of Saganna union, Ishaque Mollah of Ghorshal union in Jhenidah Sadar, Izazul Haque of Baluhar union in Kotchandpur upazila in Jhenidah, Alauddin Biswas of Geanna UP in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district, Altaf Hossain of Daulatpur union and Abul Kashem of Kapashatia union in Hainakundu upazila.

Tariqul Islam alias Cheneruddin of Umedpur union, Wadud Joarder of Abaipur union, Dianat Ali of Manoharpur union and Shahidul Islam of Dignagar union in Saikupa upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran handing over a trophy to Malequa Ferdous Chowdhury, manager of Merry Stopes Society Clinic, Sylhet for her remarkable role in promoting family planning (FP) activities. The trophy distribution programme was held in the divisional city recently.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources A K M Mosharrar Hossain speaks (left) as the chief guest at a freshers' reception programme at Mymensingh Mohila Degree College while a student (right) renders songs on the occasion. Among others, local member of parliament (MP) Delwar Hossain Khan, founder president of the college Syed Faruqi and deputy commissioner (DC), Mymensingh Md Shafiqul Islam attended the function which was held in the district town recently.

## Care stands beside cold victims

Care Bangladesh, a major international development organisation, has distributed 20,508 blankets among the cold-affected people in six districts, says a press release.

Of the total, 15,000 blankets were distributed in Tetulia and Sadar upazilas of Panchagarh district, and Baliaadangi and Sadar upazilas of Thakurgaon district.

With the financial assistance of the USAID, Care partner NGOs and Disaster Management Committee distributed the blankets in Panchagarh, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Bogra and Naogaon districts.

Care Bangladesh also distributed a limited number of T-shirts and caps among the cold affected people.

## Rickshawpuller stabbed to death in Patuakhali

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A rickshaw-puller was stabbed to death, allegedly in a feud, at village Pukurjana of Itbaria union in Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

Rickshaw-puller Khalilur Rahman, 50, was stabbed to death on Sunday night at the local bazaar at village Pukurjana when he got into an argument with fellow card players over the upcoming Upazila Parishad (UP) election.

Local people said Khalilur had been working for a member candidate and they alleged followers of the other candidate killed him.

However, police suspect that Khalilur's fellow players might have killed him following a feud over the card play.

Election candidates and the supporters are panic stricken and a tense situation is prevailing at the union.

No case had been filed till the writing of this report on January 12 night.

## Three fishermen of Pirojpur feared drowned

UNB, Pirojpur

Three fishermen of Pirojpur district, who went to the sea for fishing on January 4, are feared drowned.

National Fisheries Cooperative Association sources said a fishing trawler carrying 13 fishermen sank in the deep sea on the day due to strong wave created by a foreign ship.

Later, the fishermen of another trawler rescued 10 fishermen. But three others were missing. They are Husen Ali and Habibur Rahman of Sadar upazila and Abdus Sattar Hawlader of Bhandaria upazila. They are yet to be traced.

## Three arrested while trying to leave country illegally

UNB, Bagerhat

Three youth were arrested from the Pusher channel of the Mongla port Sunday while they were trying to leave the country for Malaysia illegally in a Cambodian ship.

Customs officials caught Jahangir Alam, Jakir Hossain and Shamsul Haq after searching the Singapore-bound ship.

The arrested youths told police that Abu Hanif, the food supplier of the ship, took responsibility to send them Malaysia under a deal with the captain of the ship.

Hanif went into hiding. A case was filed in this connection.

## Two muggers arrested from Joypurhat

UNB, Joypurhat

Two muggers were arrested from separate places of Joypurhat town Monday.

Police said they caught Munna, 20, red-handed while snatching in the town. Munna was a listed criminal and an accused of arms case.

Mainul Islam, 25, was arrested from Joypurhat-Bogra road, during his bid to snatch a VCD from a rickshaw passenger.

Police also arrested Saiful from the house of infamous bandit Amjad Hossain at village Kathail in Kalai upazila Saturday.

They also recovered one pipe gun and three rounds of bullet according to his confession.



PHOTO: STAR

Activists of the Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) parade the streets of the university campus in a colourful procession on the occasion of its founding anniversary recently.

## Cold spell raises absentees in degree exam in Nilphamari

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

A large number of degree examinees are getting ill due to cold spell in this northern district.

Most of the examinees come to the examination halls from far flung areas of the district in terrible difficulties. As a result percentage of absentees in examination is on the increase.

Following last year's unwarranted incidents and massive cheating in examination in Saidpur college, Jaldhaka college and Dimla Islamia College centres, this year at the directive of National University, examination centres have been shifted to different upazilas. Examinees of Saidpur college and Domar college are appearing in Nilphamari Government College centre, while examinees of Nilphamari Government College are appearing in Saidpur College centre. Similarly examinees of Jaldhaka college are appearing in Dimla college centre and vice versa.

But such measure of National University does not appear to restrict large number of examinees to cheat in examination. The degree (pass) examinees here are suffering much this year. A very few number of examinees have been able to arrange residential accommodation near to their new examination halls.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque made an unscheduled visit to three examination centres here. During his visit he instantly expelled 23 examinees.

Later at a meeting of the district law and order meeting held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Nilphamari he expressed his dismay and indignation. He urged all to help eradicate cheating in examination halls once for all.

On the first day of degree examination, a total of 141 examinees were expelled from various centres while on the second day it came down to 109. On January 8, this

correspondent found some improvement in the overall situation, but that was not enough.

However, incidents of cheating in Nilphamari Government College examination centre came down considerably due to stern measures taken by the invigilators there. The Principal of Nilphamari Government College has categorically expressed his firm determination to combat the menace. He hailed the steps of the State Minister for Education who is also the in charge of this district. The State Minister stated that every possible measure has been taken to raise the standard of education in Nilphamari by bringing down cheating in examination halls.

Meanwhile, A degree candidate lost his two legs in an accident on Syedpur-Nilphamari road Monday when going to examination centre.

Nayan, 22, met the accident when he fell down from the running bus at Fultola.