

## NEWS SNAPS

## Girl rescued from brothel

UNB, Jamalpur

A teenaged girl was rescued from a brothel at Raniganj Bazaar in Jamalpur town Saturday.

On information, the law enforcers raided the brothel and rescued Rani Khatun, 14. Rani said Rahima, a prostitute of the brothel, lured her into a trap and took her to the brothel when she came to Jamalpur railway station from Dhaka where she worked as a domestic help. Rani was taken to police custody.

## 10 hurt in road accident

UNB, Jhalakathi

At least 10 people were injured in an accident on Bhandaria-Noikathi road at Rajapur upazila Sunday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a tempo (locally called Bhotbhoti) turned turtle on the road leaving the passengers injured. Of the injured, Rahunur Rashid, 16, Abu Bakar, 88, Halim, 40, Shahidul, 18 were rushed to Rajapur hospital. A case was filed.

## Child's floating body found

UNB, Keraniganj

The floating body of an unidentified child was recovered from the Buriganga River near Par Gendaria on Sunday.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

## New telephone exchange opens

UNB, Satkhira

A 512-line digital telephone exchange has been set up in Kolaroa upazila of Satkhira district.

State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah inaugurated the telephone exchange Saturday. From now on people will have to dial adding 75 before the previous telephone numbers, said an official handout.

## Road accidents kill two in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Magura on January 21.

One young man identified as Saki 22, of village Narna in Rajbari district was killed on the spot when a tempo hit him from the behind at Baraalidaha square on Ramnagar-Radhanagar road at around 11-30 pm on the day.

The other accident occurred in the Bhaina area on Magura-Jessore road when an octogenarian identified as Zamiruddin of village Aksi in Sadar upazila was crushed under the wheels of a truck at around 3-15 pm on the fateful day. In a critical condition he was admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries after some time.

Police seized the vehicle, while the driver managed to escape.

## Problems grip 446 primary schools in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Manifold problems grip 446 primary schools in four upazilas in Magura district.

Sources in the District Primary Education Office (DPEO) informed that 276 schools have been nationalised, while 179 are non-government primary schools.

Posts of 16 headmasters and 66 assistant teachers are vacant in the aforementioned government primary schools.

In primary schools of Sadar upazila, posts of six headmasters and 14 assistant teachers are vacant while in Sreepur upazila four posts of headmasters and 15 posts of teachers have been lying vacant in the schools there for years together. In Mohammadpur upazila five posts of headmasters and 19 posts of assistant teachers are vacant in some primary schools.

## Price spiral of essential commodities in Narail

BSS, Narail

Prices of essential commodities, including rice shoot up in three upazilas of Narail district, according to local people.

Prices of all varieties of rice per kg have increased from Tk 3 to Tk 4 in 35 hats and bazaars of the district, while prices of vegetables slightly decreased over the last three weeks. Soybean oil is selling at higher rate than the price fixed by the government.

Aman rice is selling at Tk 14 per kg, which was Tk 10 to Tk 11 last three weeks ago. IRR1 is selling at Tk 14 per kg against Tk 11 per kg. Prices of Pajam increased to Tk 17 per kg from Tk 14, Nazirshail Tk 18 to Tk 19 from Tk 15.50 and Mincate Tk 20 to 21 from Tk 19.

Explaining the reason, sellers told that stoppage of Open Market Sale (OMS) programme, heavy fog and imposition of hundred per cent LC margin are the main

reasons behind the price-hike of rice.

Defying the government order, a section of shopkeepers are allegedly selling soybean oil at Tk 51/52 per litre instead of price fixed at Tk 48. Some customers alleged a few dishonest traders are selling adulterated soybean oil taking advantage of its heavy demand. Mustard oil is selling at Tk 60 per litre.

Price of flour has increase by Tk 2 per kg. Price of egg of four each is being at sold Tk 12, which was Tk 10. Prices of all varieties of fish have also increased. Beef is selling between Tk 75 to Tk 80 per kg and mutton between Tk 130 to Tk 140 per kg.

About vegetables, tomato is selling between Tk 25 to 30 per kg, old potato Tk 10 per kg while new potato Tk 13 to 14 per kg, brinjal is selling at Tk 12 to 14, cauliflower Tk 10 to 15, cabbage at Tk 4 to 6 and radish at Tk 3 to 4 per kg.



Singers render motivational songs to make voters aware about code of conduct and to involve greater number of people in the Union Parishad election. The District Information Office, Tangail has taken up the motivational programme which started from January 19 and will conclude on March 4.

## Poor freedom fighters deprived of allowance in Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh

Some enlisted poor freedom fighters have been deprived of their government allowance for the last six months.

About 425 freedom fighters out of total 1900 of Panchagarh district had been getting Tk 300 per month under the previous government's countrywide programme to help the

poor freedom fighters.

But the allowance remained stopped from last July in the name of re-evaluation and re-selection of the freedom fighters' list.

Meanwhile, an official source said the government has finalised fresh list of freedom fighters increasing the total number and each month's allowance amounting to Tk 500.

## 3,450 MTs of cotton output target fixed in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two thousand three hundred hectares of land has been brought under cotton cultivation with a production target of 3,450 metric tons (MTs) in four upazilas of Magura district.

Sources in the Cotton Development Board informed, cotton cultivation scheme in Magura district is divided into six units. The units are Magura, Ichchakhada, Sreepur, Langalband, Mohammadpur and Shatruijtpur.

Of the total land, 350 hectares in Magura, 500 hectares in Ichchakhada, 650 hectares in Sreepur, 250 hectares in Langalband, 150 hectares in Mohammadpur and 400 hectares in Shatruijtpur have been brought under the scheme.

## Smuggled goods seized by BDR

UNB, Sylhet

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans seized huge Indian smuggled goods worth about Tk 11.45 lakh from a frontier area in Kulaura upazila here Saturday.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN  
A group of rural youngsters make great fun while fishing in a traditional manner in a dried pond. Usually in the winter season ponds and water bodies dry up all over. Grabbing the situation they enjoy the game of fishing.

## Bus dacoity Passenger injured, Tk 2 lakh valuables looted in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

Bandits attacked passengers of a bus in Bishoykhali area of Jhenidah town and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 2 lakh leaving one passenger injured Sunday.

Witnesses said the robbers numbering six got into the Dhaka-bound bus from Khulna in the guise of passengers and started looting the valuables including cash when it reached the area at about 4.45pm.

The highwaymen indiscriminately stabbed one person named Zahrul, 38, of Avoyanagar upazila in Jessore district, as he raised a hue and cry. He was admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Police seized the bus and arrested its driver and helper who were later set free.

## Three nabbed from Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat

Police, in separate drives on Saturday and Sunday, arrested three people for their alleged involvement in violent activities from Sadar upazila.

The arrested were identified as Maruf Fakir alias Chhoto, 30, an accused of Awami League (AL) leader Kalidas Borol murder case and extortionists Sheikh Ripon, 34, and Mohabbat Ali, 30.

According to the confessional statement of Mohabbat, police recovered a shutter gun, a toy pistol and a Chinese axe from his house at Kartikdia on Sunday.

## A mission to help cold-hit people Four Rover Scouts begin 16-kilometre walk

UNB, Rangamati

Four Rover Scouts have started their mission to achieve the highest prestigious award 'PRS' by walking 161-km road with a call "Help the Cold-hit People".

The trainee Rover Scouts of Jagannath University College under Dhaka District Rover Association

began their journey from Rangamati district on Saturday under the leadership of Al Amin Bhuiyan of Philosophy Department.

They will end their journey in Cox's Bazar on Wednesday and made courtesy call on DC, SP, UP chairmen, teacher-students of different colleges including principals and local journalists.

## Killer husband awarded life term in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira

A court here has convicted a man and sentenced him to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing his wife.

The court also fined the lifer Rezaul Haq of village Tujulpur in Sadar upazila Tk 5,000.

According to the prosecution, Rezaul Haq killed his wife Nasima Khatun on April 25, 1999, as she failed to bring dowry from her parents.

After examining the records and witnesses, the judge of the court handed down the verdict Saturday.

## Snatchers sentenced to 5-year RI in Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat

A court here under Speedy Trial Act has sentenced four people to five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a snatching case.

The court also fined Shanto Akunji, 24, of Sundarghona, Sheikh Atiar Rahman, 22, Emran Sheikh, 20, and Shohag Sarder of Patorpara in Sadar upazila Tk 10,000 each, in

default, to suffer six months more RI.

According to the prosecution, the convicts snatched Tk 8,000 from two field workers of a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) at Patorpara on December 1, 2002.

After examining records and witnesses, judge Harun-ur-Rashid pronounced the judgement.