

## NEWS SNAP

**US invasion on Iraq protested**

UNB, Sirajganj

People of all walks of life took to the street of Sirajganj town on Thursday protesting the US invasion on Iraq. They burnt the effigy of George Bush and also symbolically hanged him.

**BCIC fertiliser lying under open sky**

UNB, Thakurgaon

Forty thousand sacks of urea fertiliser of buffer stock of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) are lying under open sky.

This is because as the 7,750-metric ton capacity godown at Shibganj, 10 km off the town, could not accommodate it.

**Workshop in Patuakhali**

UNB, Patuakhali

A workshop on Small Holder Support Project was held at local municipality auditorium on Friday.

A total of 120 participants from Barisal, Jhalakathi, Barguna and Patuakhali attended the workshop arranged by Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

# Prices of essentials soar in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Prices of essential commodities increased in Sirajganj markets since December 15 last year.

As a result, people of low income group are the worst sufferers. Prices of all varieties of rice rose up by Tk 2 per kilogram (Kg). Coarse rice is being sold between Tk 13-14 kg as against Tk 11-13 a few days ago. Medium quality of rice including Jhingashail and Swarna are on sale at Tk 15 against Tk 13 weeks ago. Fine quality of rice is being sold between Tk 18-20 per kg as against Tk 16-18 per kg.

superfine rice Katharibhog is on sale at Tk 23-25 a kg as against Tk 22-24.

Prices of winter vegetables also increased manifold. Brinjal is on sale at Tk 10 a kg in stead of Tk 6 a few days ago, cauliflower and cabbage are selling between Tk 12 and Tk 8 a kg in stead of Tk 8 and 6. Bean is being sold at Tk 12 in stead of Tk 8 a kg a week ago. Price of potato soared from Tk 8 to 12 a kg in a week. Tomato is selling at Tk 10 a kg in stead of Tk 5-6, one slice of gourd weighing 400 gram sells at Tk 10 in stead of Tk 5.

Leafy vegetables are on sale between Tk 10 to 14 per kg. Pulse like 'Moog', 'Musur', 'Motor' and 'Chhola' are being sold between Tk 40 and 45 a kg as against Tk 38-40.

Fifteen medium size 'Koi' are on sale at Tk 450, 'Ruhil' and 'Katla' each weighing three kilogram are on sale between Tk 400-450.

Soyabean oil is on sale between Tk 50 to 56 a kg in local markets, while the government fixed price is Tk 48 per kg. Mustard oil is being sold between Tk 60 to Tk 65 per kg.

## Torture on freedom fighter prisoner: Three punished

UNB, Joppurhat

A warder was sacked and a departmental case was filed against two Jamadars for torturing a freedom fighter prisoner inside the district jail.

Prison guard Golam Mostafa lost his job and a departmental case was filed against Jamadars Nazrul Islam and Abdur Rakib on Wednesday for torturing a freedom fighter prisoner named Saidur Rahman Mallik.

Four other guards were given various punishments as per jail code for torturing the prisoner.

Mallik was physically tortured as he complained to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) about irregularities in the jail.

## 12 lakh deprived of health care service

UNB, Madaripur

About 12 lakh people in four upazilas of Madaripur are being deprived of health care service at sadar hospital due to lack of physicians and mismanagement.

Locals said six important posts of physicians - three of medical officers, one of surgery consultant and one of anaesthetist - are lying vacant.

The hospital has no cardiologist and ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist, forcing the ENT and heart patients to go to hospitals in Barisal and Faridpur.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League (AL) chief and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina addresses a roadside meeting at Magura bus stand on Thursday. She was on way to Dhaka after visiting the house of slain farmer Tapan Bhattachariya and two women gangraped by armed miscreants on March 9 at village Komorpur of Jatrapur union in Sadar thana, Bagerhat.

## Man killed allegedly by truck helper in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

A man was killed allegedly by a truck helper at village Mulgaon in Kaliganj upazila on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Afazuddin, 35, an employee of a sand wholesaler.

Police said when the truck damaged the office room of the wholesaler, Afazuddin in a bid to stop the truck got into it and rebuked the helper. At this the helper hit him with a spade and threw him out of the truck killing him on the spot.

## Death penalty for two murderers in Chuadanga

UNB, Chuadanga

A court here has awarded death penalty to two culprits in a murder case.

The convicts are Akhteruzzaman Shohag, 34, of village Notun Bhandardohi in Sadar upazila and Alam alias Khokan, 51, of Bhojanipur of Jhenidah Sadar.

They picked up Torikul, member of Kutubpur Union Parishad and shot him dead on August 6, 1996.

The District and Sessions Judge AR Masud pronounced the judgement on Saturday. The court acquitted 11 people from the charge.

## Rapist gets life term

UNB, Panchagarh

A court here on Thursday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment in a rape case.

The convict, Sunil Chandra Roy of village Amlahar in Sadar upazila raped his female domestic help at his house.

## Two arrested with Phensidyl in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Police on Thursday seized 330 bottles of Indian Phensidyl and arrested two persons from a Dhaka-bound car near Gorai bridge on Magura-Dhaka highway.

The arrested were Sayeedul Molla, 28, driver of the car and Selim, 40, son of Manik Mian of Dayagonj area in Sutrapur thana, Dhaka.

## Four unnatural deaths in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

Four unnatural deaths were recorded in Chittagong district on Sunday.

Hospital sources said Rafiq, 7, a school student was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Jamtola in Pahartoli upazila while crossing the road.

Local people beat Nizamuddin, 28, for his alleged involvement in stealing valuables from Shahnagar Islamia bazaar in Fatikchhari on February 26. He died on the spot.

Nasiruddin, 21, of Alupur in Fatikchhari and Dulal Kanti Das, 32, of Adulbar in Lohagora upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison over family feud.

## Elderly allowances distributed

UNB, Pirojpur

Social Service Department distributed elderly allowances amounting to Tk 2.41 crore in Pirojpur.

Some 4,740 old people of 51 unions and two municipalities received the allowances. Of the total, 630 people received allowances in Sadar, 1080 in Mathbaria, 450 in Kaukhali, 630 in Bhandaria, 720 in Nazirpur, 960 in Nesarabad and 270 in Zianagar upazila.

## PBCP leader befools police, flees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A ringleader of an outlawed party crossed the Indo-Bangladesh border on Monday.

Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Tapan, ringleader of the south-western zone of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) crossed Benapole border.

His younger brother Ripon, 32, and four PBCP armed cadres

Mujibur, 28, Moslemuddin, 30, Mofizul Islam, 30, and Kabir, 25, were caught at the same time from the same place. They were also going to India along with Tapan.

Tapan befooled Jessore Kotwali police while crossing the No-man's land in disguise.

Tapan was the most wanted outlaw who escaped from police custody in Khulna Judges' Court last year.

His escape in Benapole border created panic among people in Jessore town. Tapan has a strong and well-organised network of armed cadres in the entire south-western zone who were involved in murders and bomb attacks.

Police arrested Khatish Mondol of Delut union, another armed cadre of Tapan group from Paikgacha upazila. Police recovered a 45-inch long Indian pipe gun from his possession.

## NOR'WESTER WRECKS HAVOC IN MAGURA



PHOTO FEATURE: HOSSAIN SERAJ

The first nor'wester of the season lashed 20 villages in Magura on March 14. The natural disaster claimed life of a woman and wrecked havoc. (Top left-right) Gusty wind with hailstorm and an uprooted tree. (Bottom left-right) One out of 80 damaged houses and badly affected banana plants.