

## SNAPS

### Eight 'criminals' nabbed

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia** Eight alleged criminals were nabbed by Bheramara police from different places of Faizullahpur village on Friday night.

The arrested are Abu Bakar, Zibu, Amirul, Babu, Lal Chad, Jamal Uddin, Abdur Rashid alias Kabul and Ekramul, all of the same village.

Several cases were lodged against them with the police.

### Two outlaws arrested

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia** Daulatpur police arrested two cadres of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) on Thursday night.

The arrested are Anwar Hossain alias Anu, 48, and his associate Rafiuddin, 33.

Police arrested them through a raid at the house of Abul Hossain at Kazipur village in Daulatpur upazila where they were taking rest.

Both were accused in several cases filed with various police stations in the district at different times.

### 30 football fans hurt in clash

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia** At least 30 football fans were injured in a clash between ardent supporters of two football teams at Ratampur village of Mujibnagar in Meherpur on Friday.

According to witnesses, the clash erupted following an altercation triggered by foul play of a player. At a certain stage, passionate supporters of both the teams entered the field and locked in the bloody clash.

Seven of the injured were admitted to local health complex.

### Body found

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira** Body of an unidentified man was recovered from Madra beel (a water body) in Tala upazila on Tuesday morning. Quoting local people police said, people found the body lying there in a pool of blood. On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Satkhira hospital for post-mortem.

Police suspected that the 35-year-old victim might have gunned down by the armed cadres of outlawed party. A case was filed with Tala thana.

# 'Reinvestigate Sharmin rape murder case'

## Main accused JCD leaders dropped from charge sheet, two not accused included

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

Reinvestigation of the sensational Sharmin rape and murder case by CID has been demanded following dropping of names of the two main accused from the charge sheet and inclusion of two others who were not accused.

The two main accuse are JCD leaders Sheikh Mehdi Hasan Mintu and Habibur Rahman.

The demand was made at a press conference at Satkhira Reporters Club on Monday last.

It was addressed by Robin Roy, son of Parimol Roy, one of the two included in the charge sheet submitted on November 24.

Inclusion of the two and dropping of the two JCD leaders from the charge sheet has fomented resentment and tension in the area.

Sharmin Parvin, 16, daughter of late Abu Bakar of Paikgachha in Khulna, was raped and strangled inside a shop at Tala upazila headquarter on July 23. The body was recovered from a pond near the shop on the following morning.

Sharmin worked as a domestic help at the house of freedom fighter Afzal Fakir in Tala Sadar.

In a statement given on August 5 before First Class Magistrate

Ibrahim Khan under Section 164, Sharmin's fiance Abdul Halim said they were returning to her house from her relative's house in Atharomile village on July 23. Hamil is the son of one Khalil Biswas of Shibpur village in Tala.

As they reached in front of Tala Upazila Muktiyoddha Sangsad office at about 8 pm, Tala Government College JCD (Jatiutabadi Chhatra Dal) Vice President Sheikh Mehdi Hasan Mintu, JCD leader Habibur Rahman and two others caught and dragged them inside a shop owned by Parimol Roy. They tied him and gangraped Sharmin.

They strangled her, threw the body into a nearby pond and threatened him with death if he disclosed the incident, Halim said in his statement.

As his statement was published in local news papers, local ruling party leaders including a law maker became active to save the two JCD leaders. They got Hamil arrested and compelled him to file a petition for withdrawal of his earlier statement given before the magistrate.

Parimol's son told the press conference that Halim, under their pressure and threat, on August 20 retracted his earlier statement and said he alone killed Sharmin and



narrated his brutal act to shopowner Parimol Roy. After that, investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted a charge sheet to the magistrate court on November 24 against Abdul Halim and Parimol Roy, dropping the names of the two JCD leaders, he said.

The IO said allegations brought against the two JCD leaders could not be proved.

In his written statement Parimol's son said, Abdul Halim, filed an 'naraji' petition against the charge sheet and prayed for withdrawal of his second statement given under "threats by ruling party men".

He claimed that names of the two JCD leaders were dropped from the charge sheet due to pressure from local ruling party leaders.

## Six die from Pneumonia in Gopalganj

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj**

At least six children died of pneumonia in the Sadar upazila in the last fortnight.

Everyday, 45 to 50 children are being brought to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital, sources there said.

At least 1256 were attacked by the disease in different areas of the Sadar upazila during the period, they said.

This correspondent during a recent visit to Gopalganj Sadar

Hospital found all the beds in the children's ward occupied by pneumonia patients.

Some mothers alleged that they have to buy medicines from outside.

Senior Staff Nurse Shipra Mondal said pneumonia has turned serious during the last few days as winter is approaching. The patients turn critical as most of the parents are not aware of symptoms of the disease. They bring their children to hospitals when the situation turns critical, she said.

## Two children rescued while being trafficked to India

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia**

Two children were rescued from Meherpur while being trafficking to India on Friday.

They were identified as Abdul Hye, 15, and Mithu, 10, of Palashbari in Gaibandha.

Police told this correspondent that Abu Abdullah of the same area abducted the children on Monday and brought them to Meherpur for trafficking to India.

People challenged Abdullah when the children were crying and urged him to send them back to their parents. They sent messages to police to whom Abdullah admitted that he had abducted them for trafficking to India.

The children are now in Meherpur police custody.

## 2500 applications pending with Moulvibazar BTTB

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar**

A total of 2506 applications for new telephone connection are pending with the Moulvibazar telephone exchange for long.

Sources in Moulvibazar BTTB said demand for new telephone is many times the capacity of the exchange. The district town has two telephone exchanges with a capacity of 4000 lines and all are filled up.

BTTB earlier decided to add 3000 more lines but no step has been taken yet to implement the decision.

## Jail term for two for possessing illegal arms

**A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

Additional District Judge of Lalmonirhat AKM Jahurul Islam sentenced two persons to 10 years imprisonment for possessing illegal arms in a judgement on November 30.

The convicts are Babul, son of Late Abdur Razzak Howlader of Pakhiya village and Abul Kalam, son of Moslem Howlader of Chailabunia village under Galachipa upazila.

Galachipa police arrested both the convicts on February 1, 2000 and recovered a country made gun and bullets.

## 8 killed in Comilla road mishaps

**A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla**

At least eight people were killed and 10 injured in two road accidents at Nuritala in Chandina on the Comilla-Dhaka highway on Friday.

The first mishap took place at about 2 pm when a Dhaka-bound truck hit a Dhaka-bound bus from behind, killing three on the spot and injuring nine. One of the dead was identified as Maimona Begum, 60, wife of Hazi Abdul Karim of Jourikhula village in Kachua upazila in Chandpur district.

All the injured persons were

taken to Chandina Upazila Health Complex. The killer river sped away with the truck.

In the evening, five people were killed on the spot when a Dhaka-bound taxicab (No. Dhaka Metro-PA-11-3998 from Comilla) collided head on with a Comilla-bound bus.

Two of the dead were women but none could be identified. The lone injured person was admitted to

Chandina health complex. Police recovered the badly damaged taxicab. The bus driver escaped.

## Diarrhoea claims 17 in Mymensingh

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

Diarrhoea killed at least 17 people and attacked over 500 in the last fortnight in the district.

Official sources said 5330 people were attacked with the disease since November one.

They dead include Razia Khatun, 3, of Radhakalan village and Umme Kulsum, 36, of Biddhaganj village in Phulbaria upazila; Monwara Begum, 30, of Aranya Pasha village, Khatun Jan, 70, of Phulbaria Kharua village and Masud, 12, of Mogadia village in Nandail upazila; Hazera Khatun, 50, of Shalihar village, Mahbubur Rahman, 5 and Bhutto Miah, 3, of Paltipara village in Gouripur upazila; Moshida Khatun, 32, of Pakati Barobarua village in Gafargaoon upazila; Abdus Salam, 50, of

Mollickbari village in Bhaluka upazila; Jarangir, 8, and Dilruba, 6, of Bhati Dapunla village in the Sadar upazila.

During the last week of November, at least 25 diarrhoea patients people were brought to Surjo Kanta Hospital and Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) daily.

The rush of patients has come down, sources at the hospitals said yesterday.

During a visit yesterday, some patients told this correspondent that they were not getting saline from hospitals.

When contacted, Civil Surgeon Dr Md Mahamud Hossain said the situation will be normal soon. He also said there is no scarcity of saline now as the hospitals got more allotments.

## Gaibandha UP Forum protests govt order

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

A meeting of the National Union Parisahd Forum, Gaibandha was held at the office of Gano Unayan Kendro, a local NGO, recently.

The meeting demanded withdrawal of the recent government order that local body representatives will have to take permission from UNO or Deputy Commissioner for attending any meeting, seminar, workshop and training programme.

The meeting discussed ways to strengthen the grassroots level local bodies to consolidate democracy in the country and help develop-

ment.

The meeting also demanded withdrawal of "false cases" against chairman and members of Churidaha, Kanchipara and Kanchibari unions for alleged complicity in misappropriation of VGF rice.

Presided over by Mahabubur Rahman, president of the Forum, the meeting was addressed by, among others, M Abdus Salam, Ataur Rahman Sarker and UP members Faruk Kabir Ahmed, Fazlul Kaiume Huda, Mahatabuddin, Mirza Hasan, Seuli Begum, Shirin Akhter, Shahana Begum Lucky, Rokeya Begum and Shahinur Begum.

## Kidnapped housewife rescued in Khulna

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

A young housewife Rozina Akhter, 20, abducted at gunpoint on September 3 from Patkelghata bazaar under Tala Police Station was rescued on December 2.

She was sent to safe custody after Tala police recorded her statement on December 3.

According to her statement, Rozina, daughter of Nawab Ali Molla of Enayetpur village, was abducted at gunpoint by six Jubo Dal activists from Patkelghata bazaar.

A case was recorded with Tala Police Station against Jubo Dal activists Nazrul, 28, Billah, 26, Mohor, 25, Chhoto

Khokon, 22, and Kader of Shagordarhi under Keshabpur upazila of Jessore.

Police arrested Nazrul, Kader, Billal, Shahidul and Akij from different places of Keshabpur on December 3.

Rozina told the police that she was kept confined in a house in Dhaka and raped repeatedly by FIR-named accused Chhoto Khokon and Mohor. She was also forced to take to prostitution during her confinement. Later, she managed to get out of captivity and returned home at Enayetpur from where police recovered her.

Meanwhile, other FIR-named accused now at large have threatened Rozina and her father with death.

## Chicken pox in Satkhira jail

# Undertrial dies, 50 prisoners attacked

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

Panic has gripped the prisoners of Satkhira District Jail as chicken pox has broken out in a large scale inside the jail.

An undertrial prisoner of Indian nationality died of the disease on Wednesday morning due to alleged negligence of the jail authorities.

The dead was identified as Abdul Hai Biswas, 50, son of Abdul Bari of Kashpur village in Habra thana under 24 Parganas district of West Bengal in India.

## Light of education for 3,600 children in 2 coastal dists

**A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

A total of 3,600 children who were deprived of schooling due to poverty of their parents are now attending classes in 175 educational centres in the coastal areas of Patuakhali and Barguna.

The Centre for Community Development, an NGO has undertaken the exceptional programme with 21 children, preferably girl children and one teacher in each educational centre. The time limit is three years for Class one to Class three.

The programme includes non-formal education, sports and culture.

Israt Jahan, Coordinator of the programme told this correspondent that they had been organising follow-up training courses for skill development of teachers. Stipends are also given to students who want to continue their studies up to secondary and higher secondary levels, she added.

## Gaibandha ward Commissioner's election declared null and void

**Complainant to move HC**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

Election of Ragib Hasan Chowdhury as ward commissioner of Gaibandha pourasabha has been declared null and void by the Election Tribunal and the Sessions judge as he had changed his name in the voter list in the polls held four years ago.

Ragib told this correspondent that he would appeal to the High Court against the verdicts.

Ragib Hasan Chowdhury was declared elected ward commissioner in Gaibandha Pourashava election, held on February 25, 1999.

But his nearest rival Shah Md. Nurullah Jahangir filed a case with the Election Tribunal alleging that Ragib Hasan was a bank loan defaulter and so changed his name as Rajib Hasan in the voter list.

The Election Tribunal on June 8 this year declared Ragib's election null and void.

Nurullah appealed with the District and Session Judge's Court against the judgement. Judge AM Md Sayeed in a recent verdict also declared Ragib's election null and void.