### **College student** held with arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna A student of Daulatpur Government BL University College was arrested with a sawn-off gun from near Gallamari 'Smirity Shoudha' under

Sonadanga thana on Saturday. Police also seized his mobile

The OC of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) Special Branch said Abu Saeed Chowdhury, a second year student of political science, was allegedly linked with an Islamic militant group. He has been shown arrested in a case filed with Sonadanga thana under the Arms Act.

When asked. Police Commissioner Mustafizur Rahman said the matter is being probed.

#### Schoolgirl abducted in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh A schoolgirl was abducted from Phulbaria bus stand in the town on Saturday

The victim --Kona 14-- is daughter of Helal. Police said she was returning home when some miscreants whisked Kona into a microbus and sped away.

A case has been lodged with Kotwali police.

### 2 killed in Magura road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura Two persons were killed and four others injured when a Meherpurbound coach coming from Barisal collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction in Ramnagar area of Sadar upazila on Magura-Jhenidah highway in the early hours of Monday

The dead were identified as Aminur Rahman of Kripalpur and Saifullah of Abaipur village in Sailokupa upazila, Jhenidah.

The injured were admitted to Magura and Jhenidah sadar hospitals.

## Firearm, Chinese axe recovered from Ctg slum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Police recovered a single-barrel gun and a Chinese axe from a criminals' hideout in Hajipara Slum area on Saturday noon.

However, the criminals managed

Police arrested a garment factory worker named Hosne Ara Begum during the raid as the firearm and the axe were found in her shantv.

Police have suspected that the criminals might have used the shanty as their hideout.

# Two 'outlaws' among 4 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

According to police, Shimul Biswas, 32, a member of New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP), was arrested Friday evening at Dumuria bus stand. He was wanted in a number of criminal cases, including 14 for murder, lodged with Dumuria and

Islam, secretary of Khulna district Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal.

is Masudur Rahman, 35, accused in several murder cases recorded with Dumuria police.

Police also arrested Jiten Ghos, 44, and Shankar Gain, 40. Shankar is an elected member of Shahash Union Parishad in Dumuria

# **Extortionists pushing Rupsha** shrimp plants towards 'closure'

Plant owner seeks life security against 'death threat'

Quazi Amanullah, Khulna

Frozen shrimp processing factories in Rupsha upazila are on the verge of closure due to 'death threats' given to some of the owners allegedly by armed men belonging to BNP and outlawed organisations for refusing to pay tolls.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, some of the owners alleged that BNP armed men are also not allowing renovation of their factories in view of the planned visit by two inspection teams from EU and the USA, likely in February or March next year.

There are 18 shrimps process-

ing plants in Rupsha upazil, according to sources in Khulna unit of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters' Association. All those factories are export oriented.

It is alleged that armed men loyal to Rupsha upazila BNP Senior Vice-president Mohiuddin Shaikh have given 'death threat' to the managing director of Modern Sea Foods Ltd Alhaj Md Rezaul Huq for not paying toll, demanded

Rezaul Huq has also been threatened not to do any renovation work at his plant before toll

Huq has submitted written complaints to the local police

A meeting on Role of Mass Media in Strengthening Local Government was held on Friday at Bogra Press Club. It was

sponsored by BCDJC with assistance from USAID-funded Local Government Initiative (LGI). Club President Rezaul

Hasan Ranu, ADM of Bogra Shafiqul Islam, Government Shah Sultan College teacher Ayub Hossain, BCDJC

Assistant Editor Mahfuza Jasmine and Dainik Janakantha Senior Reporter Samudra Hug are seen in the picture.

**UP leaders helpless as MPs** 

law, but actually there are seen

busy in distribution of wheat. If 500

VGF cards are allotted for an area, it

is customary to hand over 300 cards

to the ruling party leaders. Our

plans are never accepted, rather

MPs act according to their sweet

Rezaul Hasan Ranu presided over

the meeting while Additional

District Magistrate (ADM) of Bogra

representatives, government officials and the civil society also

took part who stressed a greater

role of mass media to decentralise

and strengthen the local govern-

Earlier, BCDJC Assistant Editor

Another chairman Jahangir

Mahfuza Jasmine welcomed the

delegates during the opening

Alam of Dupchachia municipality

Journalists, local government

Shafiqul Islam was chief guest.

Bogra Press Club President

will, he disclosed

ment institutions.

Discussion on strengthening local govts told

dictate things

STAR NATIONAL DESK

government's meddling.

The members of parliament (MPs)

usually dictate local government

institutions keeping the Union

Parishad (UP) leaders handi-

capped. Development activities

are also hindered due to central

This was disclosed by speakers

at a meeting titled "Role of Mass

Media in Strengthening Local

Government" at Bogra Press Club

on Friday. Bangladesh Centre for

Development, Journalism and

Communication (BCDJC) and

Bogra Press Club jointly organised

the meeting to exchange opinions

in assistance with USAID funded

Local Government Initiative (LGI)

and implemented by ARD Inc USA.

Narrating experience of being chairman of Dupchachia Sadar

union Ahmedur Rahman Biplob

told the meeting that although the

main task of MPs is enactment of

station and the Joint Forces camp seeking "security of life from BNP vice president Mohiuddin Shaikh and his armed cadres".

He has also appealed for action against the toll collectors to "save hrimp processing plants in Rupsha from being closed "BNP cadres have forced me to suspend production and renova-tion of my factory as I refused to

pay tolls", Huq aid said in his complaint. Other shrimp exporters in Khulna have sharply reacted to this incident. They have appealed to he Prime Minister and the Home

Minister to intervene to save shrimp exporting industries from

the hands of ruling party cadres and outlaws. Otherwise, they will be compelled to closecdown business, they said.

Rupsha upzilla BNP leader Mohiuddin Shaikh at a press con-

ference refuted the allegation. The BNP leader in written statement accused Rezaul Huq of grab-bing his paternal land by force for construction of the factory.

Besides, the shrimp exporter (Huq) grabbed government land now being used for expansion of Modern Sea Foods, the BNP leader alleged.

None from BNP ever demanded toll from the shrimp exporter, he

## **BCL** cadre killed in Fatikchhari gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fatikchhari police reportedly shot dead an alleged Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) cadre and injured five others during a gunfight with a criminal gang at West Pinedong on Saturday.

Nurul Alam Bollaiya, reportedly a BCL activist and an accused in seven criminal cases including murder, was killed during a oneand-a-half-hour shooting between police and cadres allegedly belongng to Shamim Bahini, police said.

Bollaiya was the second-incommand of the gang, locals

Five other gangsters, who fled into the nearby jungle with others, were also injured during the gunfight, witnesses claimed.

Being tipped off, a police team raided Rahmatia Mazar area after midnight to nab members of Shamim Bahini, a notorious criminal gang of the area. The gang opened fire at the police who also fired back, locals said.

Later, police recovered Bollaiya's body with a firearm and seven bullets, police added.

A case was filed with Fatikchhari Police Station.

# 3rd JU Day on January 12

Jahangirnagar University (JU) will celebrate its 'Third University Day on January 12. The day is ce

beginning of its journey as the country's lone residential university on January 12, 1971. A 20-member committee headed

by Vice-Chancellor Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmed has been formed for the purpose, the university sources said. Present and former students, present and ex-teachers, officials

and employees of the university have been requested to complete their registration by January 5. Registration forms are available at the Registrar's office, various departmental offices, and at the Agrani

Bank branches of the university and

the National Museum in the city. Registration forms for the studying students are available at their respective halls.

# Freedom Fighter Yakub Ali fighting for life



**STAR NATIONAL DESK** 

A valiant freedom fighter of the Liberation War of Bangladesh is now fighting for life.

Md Yaqub Ali (Freedom Fighter No 0306040360), an Assistant General Manager (AGM) of Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha, has been suffering from acute heart ailment, according to family

Son of late Azizur Rahman of Nandiarpara village in Bogra, Yakub, 50, suffered a massive heart attack recently. Heart specialists have advised him for an open-heart surgery immediately.

He is now undergoing treatment at the Sugandha Community Centre unit of Diabetes hospital at Dhanmondi in the city. Friends, relatives and well-

wishers are requested to pray for his early recovery. They may contact his wife Sakina Yakub over telephone: 9116207 at House No 395/396, Road No 7, Uttar (North) Adabar, Mohammadpur, Dhaka for blood donation. His blood group is B+ve

## Twelve crew of sunken trawler rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A salvage team rescued 12 crew of a sunken trawler from the Baywhile three other trawlers, missing since Wednesday, returned to Patharghata shorewithall39crewonFriday.

The team of Patharghata Trawler Owners' Association rescued the 12 crew of FB Tushkali from deep sea Friday noon and reached the shore in the evening, 30 hours after the vessel sank, its president Golam Mostafa said on Sunday.

The rescued crew said their trawler sank in the rough sea Thursday morningnear Andhabuoy point.

Meanwhile, three of the five missing trawlers --FB Sona Kanchan, Ananda and Katadia -- returned to Patharghata shorewithall the 39 crew.

The crew told newsmen at the shore that they took shelter at Mandarbaria and in the Sundarbans coastal area when the seas turned rough following a

Search is continuing for FB Mayer Mukh and FB Noli with their 26 crew, missingsinceWednesday.

## 'Extremist' killed by rivals in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An alleged extremist was murdered allegedly by rivals at Hatgram in Bhangura thanain Pabna on Saturday.

Some unidentified persons abducted Kafiluddin from in front of his house at gunpoint, took him to a canal and slithis throat, police said.

The victim was a defendant in a robbery case. The murder could be due to internal feud, police said.

#### Loan for unemployed youths in Narsingdi

**BSS,** Narsingdi

The Youth Development Directorate disbursed Tk 3,40,000 loans among 22 trained jobless youths in Narsingdi on the occasion of National Youth Day-2003 on December 17. The department so far disbursed Tk

24,65,000 loans among 323 trained and educated youths under its selfemployment programme in six upazilas of the district in the current financial year.

The loans have been given for undertaking projects like cottage industries, poultry, dairy, pisciculture, nursery, dress making and small

The department also trained 305 young men and women various skills to make them self-reliant during the

# 3 WDB engineers sued by contractor for 'taking bribe'

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A contractor has filed a case against hree high officials of Water Development Board for allegedly taking bribe from him.

Saidul Islam Patwary Saju, oroprietor of Rafique Construction, filed the case with a First Class Magistrate's court on

December 15, it was learnt from official sources here yesterday.

The three officials are Chief Engineer Abdul Aziz in Rangpur, Superintendent Engineer Ahsan Ullah and Sub-divisional Engineer

Enayetullah in Lalmonirhat. In the case the complainant said the three engineers took bribe from him for giving work but failed.

# 15 hurt as villagers clash in Kalaroa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 15 people including a housewife were injured, seven of them seriously, in a clash between two groups at Harina village in Kalaroa upazila Friday morning.

The clash was sequel to a longstanding land dispute between two influentials --Golam Rahman and Noor Islam.

Police quoted local people as saying that the clash began as some people allegedly led by Noor Islam tried to occupy the disputed land defying arbitration by local elders.

The feuding groups used lethal weapons in the clash. Among the injured, Ansar Ali, Kawsar Ali, Saheb Ali, Emdadul Haq, Asadul, Arshad and Anwara Begum were admitted to Kalaroa Health

# **CU** admission test schedule announced

Form distribution begins

**CU CORRESPONDENT** 

The Chittagong University (CU) yesterday began distribution of admission forms for first year honours courses of 2003-2004 academic session.

Forms costing Tk 250 each are available at Agrani Bank branches on the campus and at Agrabad, Kapashgoal and New Market in the city. The distribu-tion will continue till February

Minimum qualifications for appearing at test is GPA 6 (in SSC and HSC) for Science Faculty and GPA 5.5 for Business Administration Faculty and Social Science Faculty.

Students who got Second Division in SSC and HSC in 'old division system' are also eligible to sit for test.

The quota for students who are permanent residents of Chittagong Hill Tract has been increased to 30 from 10.

Admission tests will begin on February 24. On the first Day, tests for "Ka unit" (physi-

cal science) and "Cha unit" (Forestry and environmental science) will be held at 10:30 am and 2:30pm respectively.

On February 25, tests for "Ka unit" (Biological Science) and "Chha unit" (Marine Science)

will be held at 10:30 am and 2:30 Tests for "Uma unit" (Law Faculty) will be held on February

26, "Ga unit" (for student with science and arts background) on February 28 and for Commerce Group on February

Tests under "Gha unit" (Social

Science) and "Kha unit"

#### (Arts Faculty) will be held on March 1, 3 and 4.

# at Dumuria

Police arrested four 'listed' criminals including two members of an outlawed party at Dumuria on

Batiaghate police stations. Shimul was allegedly involved in the murder of Molla Sirajul

The others NBCP cadre arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Seven more alleged jungle bandits were arrested from Noakhali char areas on Saturday and the day

They are Helal, 27, of Char Majed in Char Jabbar: Mostafa, 35: Shah Alam, 30; Abdul Gaffer, 40; Sarwar, 27; Nur Alam, 30 and Nurul Islam,

held in Noakhali char

7 more 'jungle bandits'

in command' of a notorious gang of

nal cases against him.

coastal areas.

Police said Helal is the 'second

Police also recovered a 303 rifle. a shotgun and some bullets from Char Nangali in Chara Jobbar on

None could be arrested in this

Police said they are continuing operation to nab jungle bandits.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Ali MP

of Hatiya, while addressing a pub-

lic meeting asked the law enforcers

to nab 'real criminals' and to

ensure law and order in the area

criminals. There are several crimi-

Saturday.

## 20 hurt in clash over khas land

said that being representatives of

people they are well-aware about

local problems, but they can not

solve problems as per people's

hopes and aspirations due to impo-

sition of work from the upper

Abdul Momin alleged of

Dupchachia Sadar union chair-

Most alarming situation is the

threat of musclemen and hired

goons, revealed Dupchachia

Gunahar union chairman Nurul

Islam Khan Hiru during his speech. He disclosed that he can

not work independently due to

threat of criminals allegedly hired

from the southern region to kill

him by the so-called vested inter-

bly to ensure his safety and secu-

rity, he further alleged.

However, police failed misera-

est groups.

politicisation by local MPs.

man Biplob vouched his views.

Kahalu Sadar union chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over attempts to grab khas (government) lands in Narinda village in Sathiya upazila on Saturday.

Both the groups exploded bombs and lethal weapons during the clash.

Sources said the groups were at loggerheads for long. Saturday's clash ensued after one group got a court order

regarding lease of a khas land.

When contacted Sathiya

police station duty officer

Sekandar Ali confirmed the

incident but said no case was

filed till Sunday.

Dr N I Bhuyian, Director General, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) speaking at a workshop on Nutrient Management Research and Development, jointly organised by BRRI and Department of Agriculture Extension, held at BRRI, Gazipur recently.