

## NEWS SNAPS

## Three cows roasted alive

UNB, Barguna

Three cows were roasted alive five others injured in a fire at a cowshed at Keoratala village in Patharghata upazila of Barguna on Saturday night.

Witnesses said a gang of terrorists set fire to the cowshed of Shukharanjan Bairagi at dead of night following a past enmity. Later the villagers rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control. Another report from Tangail adds: Valuables of Uttata Spinning Mills in Gorai area of Mirzapur upazila were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out Sunday morning. The cause of fire could not be known immediately.

## Top terror arrested in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Police arrested top terror Union Parishad Chairman Abu Syed from a house at village Noldaha in Sadar upazila of Pabna on Friday midnight.

Acting on a tip-off, a contingent of police led by Police Super Altaf Hossain raided the house at 2.30 am and arrested him. Police said he was absconding since long. Police said Syed he was wanted in a number of cases including a murder case. Another report from Satkhira says that police arrested two notorious dacoits identified as Abul Khair and Azibar Rahman from Sadar upazila on Nov 13. Police said the dacoits were wanted in connection with a number of robbery and murder cases.

## Cane crushing at Panchagarh Sugar Mills

UNB, Panchagarh

Sugarcane crushing of the current season at Panchagarh Sugar Mill will begin on Friday.

Mill sources said this year's production target has been set at 10,800 mts of sugar by crushing 2.30 lakh mts of sugarcane. The mill authority disbursed a loan of Tk 4.12 crore among the growers to cultivate sugarcane on 11,000 acres of land. The Panchagarh Sugar Mills has been incurring huge loss every year since the beginning of its production in last 17 years. It incurred a loss of Tk 3.13 crore in 1999-2000 while Tk 2.14 crore in 2000-2001, official sources said. The cumulative loss stood at Tk 17 crore.

## Bumper production of cotton expected

UNB, Rangamati

Farmers of Rangamati are expecting a bumper production of cotton this year due to favourable weather. Cotton Development Board has decided to procure 5,000 kgs of seed from the farmers to encourage cotton cultivation. The board said 13,090 acres of land was brought under cultivation of cotton in 12 units of the district with an output target of 1,060 ton cotton. The 12 units are: Naniarchar, Kaukhali, Rajasthali, Khagra, Burighat, Kaptai, Betunia, Manikchhari, Borichhari, Bilaichhari, Jurachhari and Rangamati.

## Rice allocated for development projects

UNB, Magura

Some 418 mts of rice has been allocated for implementing 200 development projects in Magura in the current fiscal year.

Relief Ministry has allocated the rice for Rural Infrastructure Maintenance and Renovation projects under the Test Relief Programme. Of the total, 155 mts of rice was allocated for Sadar upazila, 11 mts for Magura Municipality, 92 for Muhammadpur upazila, 82 mts for Sreepur and 78 for Shalikhah upazila. The projects include earth filling and development of religious and educational institutions, renovation of roads and dams and cleaning bushes and ditches.

## Valuables looted from three houses

UNB, Narayanganj

Armed robbers looted valuables from three houses at Dhakkinpara village of Araihazar upazila in Narayanganj on Sunday.

The bandits entered into the house of Dr Nasim by breaking open the door and looted valuables worth over one lakh, including cash Tk 27,000. They also beat up inmates of the houses. Later, the armed robbers swooped on the house of Shaluddin and took away cash and valuables worth over Tk one lakh. Mariam, 50, Nurjahan, 35, and Momen, 28, were injured during the dacoity. On the same night, the gangsters looted cash and valuables worth Tk two lakh from the house of Hannan Miah. They also beat up Hannan mercilessly.

## Loan distributed among jobless youths

UNB, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon branch of Employment Bank distributed Tk 1.31 crore as loan among 481 unemployed youths in five upazilas of Thakurgaon in 15 months since July 2000.

The bank has given priority to those youths who received training on different trades. Bank authorities said a recipient got minimum Tk 20,000 and maximum Tk 1 lakh as loan. The loan was distributed for buying computer and photostat machine, setting up of grocery shops, poultry farms and for small trading. During the period, the bank has also realised 86 per cent of the total outstanding loan.

## Tk 93.20 lakh college dev project

UNB, Jheridah

Facilities Department of Education Ministry has taken up a project for the development of two colleges at a cost of Tk 93.20 lakh in the current fiscal year.

Under the project the department will construct two separate academic buildings one for Government K C College and another for Shalikhah Government College. Meanwhile, the tender has already been invited and the work will be started very soon, official sources said. After completion of the construction of these two buildings accommodation problem of the colleges will be solved to a great extent.



PHOTO: STAR

Principal Rabeya Ali, central leader of Nari Nirjaton Cell, a cell for lessening torture on women, speaks at a press conference at Netrakona Press Club recently. She criticised the exaggerated press reports of torture on women in various national dailies and the role of Bangladesh Mohila Parisad which also exaggerates in its campaign against the social problem.

## Unabated poaching of deer in Sundarbans

UNB, Satkhira

Poaching of deer in the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, is going on violating the existing laws.

An incumbent and a former union parishad (UP) chairman in Shyamnagar upazila poached 12 deer in Sundarbans recently after taking permission to visit the forest, said an eyewitness who preferred not to be named.

Chairman of Rajan Nagar Union Sheikh Alamgir Haider and former chairman Nurul Islam along with 10 other people, mostly local level government officials, went to the Sundarbans on November 7.

They took permission from forest officer of Koikhali Forest Station Tapan Kumar who provided six men as guard with them. The chairman also sought permission to carry guns but was denied.

Alamgir Haider, brother of a former MP, violating the order, carried two licensed guns. They went to Kakratata area inside the forest boarding three trawlers, stayed three days there and poached the 12 deer.

When contacted a key forest official of Koikhali Forest Officer preferring anonymity told that chairman Alamgir Haider carried the guns violat-

ing official order, but they were not aware of poaching deer.

However, ending the three-day poaching festival, the chairman and his people came back and reportedly arranged a function at his house, and entertained the invited government officials at his house.

Alamgir Haider's home situated at Bhetkhali village, adjacent to the Sunderbans, and he possesses a high range gun.

Local people said poaching of deer and entertaining the high government officials and other distinguished with its meat is considered as prestigious issue to the local leaders and distinguished persons living in the Sundarban areas. It has been practised for long and it posed a great threat to the existence of the "spotted deer" in the Sundarbans.

High demand of horns and hides of deer also plays a key role behind poaching of this deer, local people observed.

In a bid to stop encroachment, stop declining of habitat and save the species of this mangrove forest, international community declared it as world heritage site but despite this a section of local leaders and government officials are continuing poaching deer and other animals.

A section of government officials who are

posted in this area, builds a good relationship with local chairmen and members, and often visit the Sunderbans to enjoy poaching.

Most of the time, ruling party leaders took this opportunity and involved in such illegal practice.

Besides, a section licensed gun holders is involved with illegal poaching. They mostly turned into commercial poachers.

In villages adjoining to the Sundarbans, deer meat is an easy available item. Trading of deer meat is an open secret matter in these areas. Almost every day a section of people sells, sometimes openly, deer meat.

Local forest official and police nabbed some people with deer meat in a couple of incidents, but due to unknown reasons, legal action was not taken against them.

Local people alleged that law enforcers and forest officials are aware of everything. But they remain silent as they harvest benefit from this illegal practice.

There was an unwritten condition between the forest official and poacher: If you poach three deer one will go to the forest official.

Experts said poaching of deer would be stopped when government officials, including the forest officials, will stop extending their assistance to the poachers.

## AL supporters unsafe in Durgapur upazila of Netrakona

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

The BNP cadres have created a reign of terror in Durgapur upazila. Leaders, activists and supporters of Awami League (AL) can not move freely in this upazila.

Former member of parliament (MP) Jalaluddin Talukder who is also an AL leader is virtually confined in his residence after the October 1 election. He can not move freely because leaders of Durgapur BNP have threatened to kill him if they found him (Jalaluddin Talukder) outdoors.

Four union parishad (UP) chairmen of Durgapur upazila who happen to be AL leaders in Durgapur upazila have fled away from their homes and they cannot do their official activities now.

The UP chairmen are Abdur Razzak, chairman of Gaokandia UP, Eakub Ali, chairman of Bakoljura UP, Rafiqul Islam, chairman of Brishiri

UP and Protosh Mrong, chairman of Durgapur UP.

Former MP Jalaluddin Talukder told this correspondent that the BNP activists killed AL leader Abdus Salam, 35, on November 12 night.

The BNP activists also foiled a meeting of Durgapur upazila AL and ransacked the upazila AL office. On November 13 the BNP activists ransacked and damaged the house of Muktul Hossain of village Shibgong. They also raped the woman residents of his house. The BNP activists chopped and seriously injured Shahidur Rahman, son of Muktul Hossain with sharp weapons. He is now undergoing treatment at Durgapur hospital.

Not only that the BNP activists forcibly harvested the ripe paddy from the land of many AL activists and supporters. They also caught fish forcibly from different ponds of AL activists and supporters. In fact Durgapur is now ruled by the BNP cadres.



State Minister for Textile Mijanur Rahman Sinha offers munajat following foundation laying ceremony of a new building of Rasunia High School in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj on Monday.

## Expatriates losing interest in setting up industries in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

Despite having a bright prospect of setting up of industries in Sylhet division, entrepreneurs do not come forward with positive attitude for want of proper feasibility study.

Some expatriates living in the UK said they have lost their interest in setting up industries in Sylhet due to bureaucratic bottleneck and lack of security.

On the other hand, over Tk 10,000 crore, sent by the

Bangladeshi expatriates, are lying idle in different banks.

The then government in 80s had undertaken a plan to set up 29 textiles mills in the region, but the industrial units turned into 'sick' after two years of their establishment.

Leaders of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Sylhet division is a prospective area for investment than country's other regions, but no study or research has yet been conducted here to determine the nature of

industrialization.

Although the government set up an investment board in Sylhet in 2000, but it failed to attract the entrepreneurs to invest here only for the above reason.

Experts said Sylhet region is perfect for setting up of different factories like processing of raw materials, cement, fertilizer, power, glass and perfume.

Besides, there is a bright prospect of establishing fruit processing industries and cold storage for preserving fish.

## IU vacation

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kustia

The 41-day Ramadan vacation of Islamic University has begun from Nov 16.

## New President, GS of Sirajganj Press Club

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Akhteruzzaman Bablu of The Daily Star and Md Zakirul Islam of The Daily Aker Kagoj have been elected president and general secretary of the executive committee of Sirajganj Press Club for the period of 2001-'03.

They have been elected unanimously in the annual general meeting of the club at Mujib Sarak, Chowrasta intersection, Sirajganj on November 7 last. The meeting had been presided over by the outgoing president of the club Zakirul Islam.

Other office bearers are vice president: Nazrul Islam of The Daily



President

Gen Secy

Bhorer Kagoj, assistant general secretary: S M Tofizuddin of The Daily Banglabazar Patrika, organising secretary: Masud Rana of the United News of Bangladesh (UNB), treasurer: Hirok Goon of The Daily Matribhumi and office secretary: Md Rafiqul Islam Shamim of The Daily Probat.

Other members are Helaluddin of The Dainik Bhorer Kagoj, Ferdous Robin of The Daily Manob Kantho and Helal Ahmed of The Daily Karotoa.