

## NEWS SNAPS

## Housewife killed by husband

UNB, Narsingdi

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Daspara area of Narsingdi town on Thursday.

Locals said Omar Ali strangled her wife Romana Akter Rumi, 21. After having a quarrel with her over dowry. Family sources said Omar Ali used to torture Rumi as her parents failed to give the additional promised dowry money of Tk 10,000 to him. Earlier, the parents gave Tk 20,000 to Omar during the marriage.

## Septuagenarian woman killed during brawl

UNB, Comilla

A septuagenarian woman was killed during a brawl at Kacharikandi Panchkitta village in Muradnagar upazila here on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Hazera Khatun. Police said Hazera's son Islamil locked into a quarrel with his cousin Abul Kashem over a trifling matter. At one stage Kashem hit Hazera with a wood piece killing her on the spot. Police arrested Abul Kashem in this connection. A case was filed.

## Valuables worth Tk 2 lakh looted

UNB, Kusthia

Armed robbers looted valuables worth Tk 2 lakh from a house at Amlapara of the town on Sunday.

Police said armed bandits swooped on the house of a businessman Jahangir Alam at 9 pm and looted cash Tk 50,000, 14 tolas of gold and other valuables tying up the family members. On the same day a motor cycle was snatched from a man in Doulatpur upazila.

## Ten shops gutted in Shariatpur

UNB, Shariatpur

Ten shops were gutted in a fire at Bangabandhu Super Market in Shariatpur town early Monday.

Witnesses said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at about 3 am and raged through the shops burning down valuables worth Tk 50 lakh. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and put out the flame after one hour of hectic efforts.

## 15 murderers get life term RI

UNB, Shariatpur

A court in Shariatpur has sentenced 15 people to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a murder case.

According to the prosecution, the convicts gunned down Selimullah Dhali, chairman of Garibchar union in Goshairhat upazila, on January 25, 1993. After examining the records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge M Ruhul Amin found them guilty and handed down the verdict on Saturday the court also acquitted 10 people due to lack to proper evidence against them. Of the convicts, three Keramat Ali, Abdul Gafur Khan and Shajahan Sharder were tried in absentia.

## Three arrested: Two revolvers recovered

UNB, Jhenidah

Police arrested three people and recovered two revolvers along with 12 bullets from a Dhaka-bound bus in sadar upazila of Jhenidah on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the bus at Hatgopalpur cheek post and recovered two loaded Chinese revolvers and 12 rounds of bullet. Besides, police on suspicion arrested three people from the coach. A case was filed.

## Clash over land leaves 10 hurt

UNB, Rajshahi

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at Darusha village in Paba upazila in Rajshahi on Sunday.

The clash ensued at about 11:30 am over a land dispute and continued for over half an hour. Eight of the injured were admitted to local health complex. A case was filed with Paba thana.

## Tremor jolts Rangpur, Panchagarh

UNB, Rangpur

A mild tremor jolted Rangpur and Panchagarh and their adjoining areas in the early hours of Monday creating panic among the people. However, there was no immediate report of any casualty.

Local sources said the earthquake shook Rangpur district and adjoining areas at 4:45am and lasted for five seconds while in Panchagarh and its adjoining areas it hit at about 4:25am and lasted for a few seconds without causing any casualty or damage.

Panic-stricken people rushed out of their houses following the jolt.

A housewife of Panchagarh town, Mostakin Ava, informed that she and her family members sensed the quake after having sehti.

"The entire house shook up, household materials overturned and a showpiece fell down from the top of the TV set under the impact of the vibration," she informed.

Panic-stricken Ava along with her family members rushed out of the house to the courtyard.

Earlier on November 14 and 17, two similar earthquakes jolted Panchagarh.

Experts have identified greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts as tremor-prone areas in the country.



Aborigine Garo women dancing wearing traditional dress in Mymensingh. Traditional culture of this tribe is very rich. Members of this tribe chalk out attractive cultural programmes on various occasions of social and religious festivities. Of the festivities, Wangala is the most major festival.

## 143 transformers of PBS out of order in Moulvibazar

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

At least 143 electric transformers of Moulvibazar Pally Bidyut Samity (MPBS) have gone out of order within its service area. As a result

power supply is being hampered and power consumers of the Samity are suffering a lot.

According to official source at Srimongal in Moulvibazar, 143 transformers have gone out of order from September-2000 to September-2001. These transformers include various capacities of voltage. The source mentioned that 43 transformers of 5 KVA, 55 of 10 KVA, 23 of 15 KVA, 7 of 25 KVA, 7 of 35 KVA, 4 of 50 KVA, 2 of 75 KVA and 2 transformers of 100 KVA went out of order during the period.

The Samity has four power substations in Moulvibazar. Transformers which went out of order are 25 transformers located in Srimongal sub-station area, 48 transformers in Moulvibazar sub-station area, 25 transformers in Kamalganj sub-station area and 45 transformers are located in Baralekha sub-station area.

Thunderbolt on service line or transformers, faulty installation of transformers, faulty earthing system and obstacles created over service

line by branches of wayside trees are the main reasons for fault in transformers.

However, overloading of power beyond the respective capacity of transformer is the major cause of fault in transformers. Load of power supply over service line is being increased day by day due to increasing number of Samity consumers. For overload of power on each transformer, HT and LT coils are being burnt. Besides this, faulty earthing system had been prevailing at the time of installation of these transformers.

Rural Electrification Board (REB) had purchased inferior quality of transformers for country's Pally Bidyut Samity six years back and inferior quality of transformers had been installed where transformers had gone out of order.

Power consumers of the Samity have urged the authority to install new transformers immediately for the interest of the consumers.

## Danish mission visits Rangamati

BSS, Rangamati

A royal Danish mission led by ambassador Niels Saverin Munk arrived in Rangamati on Monday to discuss resumption of Denmark's support for the development of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Danish assistance to some uplift initiatives in the hilly region, including a Tk 400 crore road building project, was suspended following the abduction of two Danish and a British nationals by a tribal gang on February 16 this year.

Soon after his arrival in Rangamati, the envoy held separate meetings with CHT Regional Council Chairman Jotirindra Bodhipriya Lama and local Deputy Commissioner Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan.

He discussed a range of issues including local needs, priority and security aspects with them.

The Danish Ambassador expressed his country's commitment to work for the poor.

## Rival gangs of heroin traders exchange fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rival gangs of heroin traders exchanged gunshots for about five hours in Tilagarh, Shaplabag and Kalyanpur areas of Sylhet town on Tuesday night for establishing dominance in the illegal business in the area.

Residents of the areas became panicky, shopkeepers shut down their shutters and vehicles went off the roads as the miscreants traded at least 100 shots intermittently from about 7 pm till midnight, local people said.

One gang member —Makan — brother of gang leader Kabir Ahmed, was hit by bullet.

Kabir Ahmed is known in Tilagarh-Kalyanpur area as a heroin trader. Dara and Ana, two sons of notorious armed robber Majid, are also running the same business in nearby Bhatpara area for year together.

Both the rival groups have been doing brisk heroin business in the area under the shelter of law enforcers.

The clash ensued as Kabir tried to lure back some of his old customers he lost to Majid while he was in jail recently.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful procession in Sirajganj town on the occasion of World AIDS Day on December 1. State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmood inaugurated the procession which was participated by Tariq-ul-Islam, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr Md Tariqul Islam, Civil Surgeon of Sirajganj and elite of the district town.

## Three AL supporters hurt by BNP cadres

ANWAR ALI, Natore

At least three Awami League (AL) supporters and activists were critically injured allegedly by BNP cadres in Biprobeldharia union of Natore in separate incidents on Sunday.

While talking to The Daily Star on Monday at Natore Sadar Hospital, Awami League activist Chand Muhammad, 40, told that local BNP cadres chopped him mercilessly with Chinese axes and bit with lethal weapons at Samaskalsi of Biprobeldharia union on Sunday morning. Chand alleged that the attack was a sequel to his protest against the BNP cadres' repression bid on local Hindu families.

Ayesha, mother of Chand, was also hurt while trying to save her son from the BNP activists. She was also admitted to the hospital. The terrorists have threatened Chand not to file any case against them.

The other incident took place inside the new building of Natore Boys' High School near the residence of the Deputy Minister for Local Government & Rural

Development. Chand's uncle Ibrahim Mondol, 52, also a former member of the union parishad (UP) and AL worker was abducted and confined inside a room of the school building by local BNP men. They called him a 'peer' for Hindus and tortured him. They also demanded Tk 20,000 as toll. Later in the evening Ibrahim was released after giving signature on judicial stamps worth Tk 150. Chand told this correspondent that he was feeling insecure. He also alleged that he could not return his home at Samaskalsi fearing further attempt on his life.

When contacted, Natore police admitted the incidents.

No case was filed so far in these regards.

It is worth mentioning that Biprobeldharia is the union of Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar who is committed to free Natore from terrorism and extortion.

## Law and order worsens in three hill dists

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Speakers at a discussion meeting on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of CHT peace accord alleged that a famine like situation was prevailing in three hill districts as all development work remained suspended.

The speakers at the discussion meeting which was presided over by district Awami League president Dipankar Talukder also observed that the law and order situation in the hill districts deteriorated in recent time. They demanded full implementation of CHT peace accord.

In another discussion organised by Jana Songhati Samity, the speakers demanded government's stern action to stop terrorist activities by anti-Peace accord group, the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Presided over by Nirmolendu Tripura, the speakers at the meeting also demanded preservation of basic right of the indigenous people and solution to the land dispute.

Meanwhile, our correspondent from Khagrachhari adds: The day commemorating the historic signing of peace accord on CHT was

observed peacefully and silently.

During the Awami League rule, the day was observed ceremonially and formally every year. Although Jana Songhati Samity (JSS) observed the day through holding rallies, the Awami League was silent in the district this year.

The JSS rally at Chengi Square in Khagrachhari town was presided over by JSS leader Monshapru Marmar. JSS advisor Hongshadhash Chakma was the chief guest.

Honshadhash Chakma also urged the present government to fully implement the peace accord.

## Body recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police on Friday recovered the body of a man from a village in Sadar thana of Pabna.

According to police, the body, left in village Bakhipur the night before, was identified as Amzad aged 40.

Police also said that Amzad was an activist of an underground political party based in Pabna and it is believed his party followers murdered him.