

## NEWS SNAPS

## Three killed in separate incidents

UNB, Bogra

Three people were killed by the assailants in separate incidents recently in Bogra. Police said an unidentified young man, 25, was strangled and the body was left in a crop field on Friday night at village Fulbari in Sadar upazila. Locals found the body on Saturday noon and informed the police who sent it to morgue for autopsy. On Thursday following a trifling matter Lipi Khatun, 28, daughter of Kalu Pramanik was beaten to death by her husband Jalil and his parents at village Hindukandi in Shariakandi upazila. In yet another incident rickshawpuller Sahfikul Islam, 22, of village Sonka in Sherpur upazila was robbed and killed by the extortionists while returning home on Wednesday night. Separate cases were filed with the police.

## Wife chopped to death by husband

UNB, Barguna

A wife was chopped to death allegedly by her husband at Agathakurpara village in Taltali upazila of Barguna on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Selina Begum, 31, wife of Waliullah. Locals alleged that Waliullah chopped his wife to death in an attempt to harass his rival Gahar Ali. There was a longstanding rivalry between the two over capturing khas land, they added. Police arrested Waliullah when he went to the police station to lodge a case in this regard.

## Youth killed allegedly by father

UNB, Joypurhat

A youth was allegedly killed by his father at Mastor village in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Shahjahan, 16, son of Dola Miah, born of his now divorced first wife. Shahjahan was residing with his mother. Police said Dola Mia of Jontun village in the same upazila came to the house of his former wife at Kalai village and called out Shahjahan from his house. Later, his body was recovered from a bamboo cluster of the village on the following morning. Reasons behind the murder could not be known immediately. Police arrested Dola Miah in this connection. Police said Dola Miah left his first wife and his son 14 years ago and married twice later.

## Old man succumbs to his injuries

UNB, Khulna

An old man who was injured in an attack by his stepbrother on December 1 succumbed to his injuries at Khulna Medical College Hospital on Friday night.

The victim was identified as Chan Mollah, 75, hailed from Narail. Police said stepbrother Hamid Molla along with his accomplices attacked Chan Molla over a land dispute leaving him injured critically. Chan was first admitted to Narail Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Hamid went into hiding soon after the incident. A case was filed with the police.

## Valuables worth Tk 3 lakh gutted

UNB, Gopalganj

Valuables of three shops worth over Tk 3 lakh were gutted in a devastating fire at Nizra Jangal bazaar in Sadar upazila of Gopalganj on Friday night.

Witnesses said the fire originating from an oven of a sweetmeat shop soon engulfed the sweetmeat shop, a pharmacy and a grocery shop. Local people brought the blaze under control. Owner of the sweetmeat shop Akbar Mollah fled from the scene.

## Two alleged rapists arrested

UNB, Jamalpur

A woman was raped in Station Road area of Sadar upazila in Jamalpur and two persons were arrested in this connection on Friday.

The victim hailed from Mymensingh was a divorced woman and mother of three children. Police said the victim along with another woman named Jakia Sultana came to Jamalpur to visit her relatives. While they were waiting in the station area Ranzu Miah, owner of a video shop took the woman to his shop with the help of Jakia and raped her.

Hearing the victim's screaming night guards of the town rushed to the spot and rescued her. Later, police arrested Ranzu Miah and Jakia and a case was filed.

## Valuables worth Tk several lakhs looted

UNB, Kurigram

Highway robbers looted valuables worth taka several lakhs from the passengers of three night coaches on Kurigram-Chilmari road Saturday morning.

Police said armed bandits numbering 12 waylaid three Chilmari-bound coaches from Dhaka putting barricades on the road and looted cash and valuables from the passengers.

They also injured one of the coach drivers Mohir Miah, 60, and four passengers during the armed robbery.

## Pulse cultivation on 23, 920 hectares

UNB, Magura

An intensive scheme has been taken up to bring 23,920 hectares of land under pulse cultivation in four upazilas of Magura in the current season.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said of the total land, lentil will be cultivated on 12,000 hectares, chick-pea on 5,000 hectares, 'mashkala' on 100 hectares, 'mukh-kalai' on 120 hectares, 'motor-kala' on 500 hectares, 'khesari' on 6,000 hectares and 'araha' on 200 hectares. Meanwhile, a number of demonstration plots have been set up in Sadar, Sripur, Mohamadpur and Shalikh upazilas to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation. DAE has arranged supply of quality seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and other necessary agricultural inputs to the growers at fair prices to make the programme a success.

## 69 addicted people nabbed

UNB, Narayanganj

Police picked up 69 addicted people from different parts of Narayanganj town in last two days till Thursday.

Of them, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sadar thana Mizanur Rahman said, 40 people were arrested Wednesday night while 39 others Thursday night. During the raid police also seized 14 litres of liquor. Legal action has been taken against the arrested people.

## Clash over land leaves 18 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A clash between two groups of villagers over a land dispute left 18 people injured at Potazia village in Shahajadpur upazila of Sirajganj on Wednesday.

Police said the clash erupted when a group of people allegedly led by Shahid swooped on Sri Mantu and his supporters while they were renovating a temple on the disputed land. Seven of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital and other local clinics. A case was filed with local police in this connection and police arrested accused Kayes Uddin.



PHOTO: STAR

A shop situated to the north of Bannabari Bazaar in Sadar upazila of Gopalganj obstructs the work of Gopalganj-Bannabari Road. This road is a long felt demand of the people residing around Bannabari Bazaar, an important hub of commercial activities in the area. For the greater interest of a large number of people this shop should be demolished which poses as a public nuisance.

## Cold beaten people throng footpath shops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

With the arrival of the winter season, traders in Mymensingh town have been doing a brisk business of old warm clothes.

In the rural areas, cold is comparatively bitter than in the urban areas.

So, people are now gathering at different warm clothes shops in the district town as well as in upazila headquarters and also at village hats and bazaars.

The richer section of people go to different supermarkets to buy warm clothes, but the low income group and poorer section gather at roadside shops to collect warm clothes to protect themselves from the biting cold of the winter.

Now a pullover is being sold between Tk 50 and 75 or more at footpath. But the rate is higher in other markets.

Abul Kasem, a winter clothes trader told this correspondent that they have been earning a good profit this year by selling old warm clothes.

Winter clothes are usually available at Basha Bari Market, Habib Market and at different footpaths of the district town.



PHOTO: AMINUL ISLAM

Cold stricken people gather at a footpath shop of old warm clothes at Basha Bari market in Mymensingh town. People of this area have been experiencing a biting cold this year. Its intensity has been rising gradually. So, there is a great demand for old warm garments. Usually footpath shops meet most of the demand of people of lower middle class.

## Cold wave claims 6 in Thakurgaon

UNB, Thakurgaon

The shivering cold wave that has been sweeping Thakurgaon district for last few days claimed six lives on Friday and Saturday.

The dead were identified as Samiruddin, 56, and Soleman, 60, in Ranishankail upazila while Hembala, 45, Goutam, Mofizuddin, 45, and Bashir Mohammad, 43, in Sadar upazila.

Local Civil Surgeon Office, however, said diarrhoea caused the death of Mofizuddin and Bashir.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people laid siege to the UNO office in Sadar upazila on Saturday demanding blankets to mitigate their suffering.

## Rice distributed among destitutes in Rangamati

UNB, Rangamati

The government distributed 196 mts of rice for the destitute people of Rangamati on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The rice was distributed against 19,600 VGF cards, officials said adding that each family got 10 kgs of rice.

Official said 16 mts of rice was distributed in Rangamati Municipality and 24 mts in Sadar, 16 mts in Kauhali, 16, mts in Naniachar, 20 mts in Borkal, 28 mts in Longodu, 28 mts in Banghaichari, 20 mts in Kaptai, 16 mts in Jurachari and 12 mts in Blachari upazilas.

Municipality and upazila-wise breakup of the cards: Rangamati Municipality 400, Sadar upazila-2,400, Kauhali-1,600, Naniachar-1,600, Barkal-2,000, Longodu-2,800, Banghaichari-2,800, Kaptai-2,000, Jurachari-1,600, Rajsthai-1,200 and Belachari-1,200.

## AL activist, trader killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An Awami League activist, Abul Kasem, 36, was stabbed to death in Saipara village under Lalpur upazila in Natore recently.

Unidentified miscreants stabbed him indiscriminately after calling him out of his house. He was immediately taken to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he died.

In another incident, Fasih Uddin Pramanik, 45, a businessman of Sujnipur village in Manda upazila, was stabbed to death by miscreants in Hatra Kalitola village in Mohanpur upazila recently.

In Rajshahi, at least 10 people were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between police and local people in a day.

The clash ensued when the residents of Maria village in Durgapur upazila disobeyed an order by police to end a meeting, which was organised to discuss how to develop a village mosque. Fifty people participated in the meeting.

Seven people were arrested, and a case was filed with the Durgapur Police Station.

## Man arrested with two pipe guns

UNB, Gopalganj

Police arrested a man along with two pipe guns and two rounds of bullets from his house at Bangram in Sadar upazila on Saturday.

Acting on a tip off police raided the house of Bulbul and arrested him in the morning. Later on the basis of his confession they recovered the arms dumped under the soil of his cowshed. Police said Bulbul was wanted in connection with a recent dacoity at the local BRAC office. A case was filed.

## Fatwa falls on eleven families

UNB, Panchagarh

Village touts in a remote area ostracized the people of eleven families belonging to a religious group known as Kadiani issuing an edict (Fatwa) for long eight to nine years.

They outcast the families from the society and refrained them from all social activities.

Exasperated with the harassment and torture the helpless people of those families of Kolanda village in Balia Dangi upazila submitted two memoranda to the police super and the deputy commissioner recently seeking security of their life and property.

The heads of the families Tofazzal Hossain, Gias Uddin, Harmut Ali, Yusuf Ali, Shamsul Haq, Abdul Aziz, Rafiqul Islam, Enamul Haq, Nazrul Islam, Ashraf and Abdul Latif told that they were ostracized from the society by an

interested quarter.

The village located 32 kilometres off Panchagarh town and as the people are very poor and illiterate the authorities in the area took up no significant development activities since long.

Taking the innocence of the people the vested quarter under the shelter of a former union paraisad (UP) member and the imam of a local mosque termed the families as Kadiani and Kafir.

They forcibly captured the Eidgah of these families and planted sapling of various trees on it. Their children were also allegedly expelled from the schools.

When contacted deputy commissioner ATM Julfiqar Haider Chowdhury and police super Amiruddin said they were investigating into the matter.

## Pabna unit of Jatiyatabadi Lawyers' Forum faces feud

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Grouping and lobbying over appointment of different government posts, including the post of government prosecutor and public prosecutor has resulted a severe internal feud in the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Lawyers' Forum in Pabna.

Since the BNP-led four-party alliance government took over power, incidents of formation of new committee by a group, expulsion and counter expulsion, statement and counter statement have attracted public attention in Pabna.

The grouping and lobbying has been going on for 20 such posts. In addition to the posts of government prosecutor and public prosecutor, 20 posts also includes the posts of special public prosecutor and assistant public prosecutor.

The district judge is yet to nominate lawyers for the posts while the list of the nominees is scheduled to

send the names to the Law Ministry within 31 of this month.

Some of the top leaders of the forum are now staying in Dhaka for lobbying. When asked Mirza Azizur Rahman, president of the newly formed committee of the forum admitted that initially there had been a bit misunderstanding among them. He, however, said that at present there is no conflict among them.

Activities of both the committees of the forum have been suspended and they have decided to confirm the appointment for the posts through discussion, he said.

District judge Md. Abdus Sattar Bhuyan said that he along with his colleagues has already started preparing a list of lawyers on the basis of their qualification. The district administration has also invited applications for nominating lawyers for the posts.

## Unabated drug smuggling in tea garden areas

UNB, Moulvibazar

Checking of illegal drug smuggling in the tea garden areas of Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts has apparently been failed due to lack of adequate manpower in the local Narcotics Control Department.

Concerned sources said there are six circles of the department in the two districts where the number of posts is 38.

The main task of the department is to ensure proper distribution of liquor among the licensed shops for the tea labourers and check illegal production and trading of drugs and liquor in 119 tea gardens.

But in practical, the department has 12 workforce in Moulvibazar district and there was no manpower in Habiganj district.

The department sources said at

present one range inspector and one assistant inspector are carrying out their duties with some sepoys.

They said departmental activities apparently remained standstill, as there are allegations of massive irregularities in checking crimes and conducting drives.

In many cases, the department is now dependent on police assistance but they often fail to respond to the call of the Narcotics officials. As a result, many important tips-off went unattended, said an official preferring anonymity.

Another sources said hemp is being smuggled into the garden areas through Sunamganj frontier from Indian state of Meghalaya and Nepal, and phensidyl and raw liquor from Tripura through Kulaura and Borolekha, Rajghat, Udrachhora and Barchhira area of Srimongal.