

## NEWS SNAPS

## One killed by son in Tangail

UNB, Tangail

A middle-aged man was killed when his son hit him with a stick at a village in Kalihati upazila of Tangail on Thursday.

Police and locals said Shukur Mahmood Bharani, 55, of village Ichapur suffered severe injuries when his son Shawkat Ali hit him with a stick following a dispute over land selling money. With critical condition Bharani was rushed to Tangail General Hospital where attending doctors declared him dead.

## Body of factory worker recovered

UNB, Narayanganj

Siddhirganj police recovered the body of a factory worker Abdul Khaleq from Shirail D&D canal Friday afternoon.

Quoting relatives, police said Khaleq, machine man of Animum Packaging Company, remained missing since Monday when two relatives -- Kabir and Sharif -- called him out. Police suspected that previous rivalry might be behind the killing. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with local police.

## Tribal injured by co-villager

UNB, Bandarban

A tribal man was injured when a co-villager fired gunshot mistaking him a deer at a jungle at Alikadam upazila in Bandarban on Wednesday.

The injured was identified as Menlay Murong who was undergoing treatment at Alikadam Military Hospital. Kiron Murong, a poacher of deer, said he fired the shot watching a substance sitting silently in the deep forest in the evening thinking it a deer. Menlay was responding to natural call in the jungle.

## Municipality employees call off strike

UNB, Gaibandha

The employees of Gaibandha Municipality called off their week-long strike Thursday.

The employees enforced the strike after municipality engineer was assaulted by a ward commissioner over a dispute of pilfering medicine of water treatment plant on January 12. The strike has been withdrawn following a tripartite meeting of the employees, civic committee and ward commissioners with ADC Jahangir Alam in the chair.

## Target to collect Tk 1.17 cr land tax

UNB, Pirojpur

Revenue Department has fixed a target to collect about Tk 1.17 crore land development tax from Pirojpur during the current fiscal year.

Of the total, Tk 79.45 lakh is outstanding tax while the rest for the current year. Upazila-wise breakup is: Nazirpur Tk 16.32 lakh, Nesarabad Tk 12.75 lakh, Kaukhali Tk 4.78 lakh, Bhandaria Tk 9.07 lakh, Mathbaria Tk 37.93 lakh and Sadar Tk 36.13 lakh. The tax is being collected through 51 Tahsil offices across the district. The department has so far collected Tk 16.32 lakh.

## Kurigram students need textbooks

UNB, KURIGRAM

Only 36 per cent of Kurigram's total requirement of primary textbooks reached till January 10, official sources said.

The school authorities do not know when the remaining books will be made available although the government deadline passed on January 15. Kurigram needs 10,81,936 textbooks for the students of 1,210 primary schools. But only 3,78,021 books were received till January 10. In this circumstances the school authorities can not begin classes in the new academic year.

## Food procurement drive faces setback

UNB, Joypurhat

Foodgrains procurement drive in the country's northern area is facing setback due to a tangle between the government and the millers over payment of tax at source.

Federation of North Bengal Rice Mill Owners Association threatened to stop supplying rice and paddy in the government godowns if the government do not withdraw the tax at source within January 31, 2002. The ultimatum was issued from an emergency meeting of the Federation on January 13.

## Tense situation prevails on RU campus

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A tense situation has been prevailing on the Rajshahi University campus following attack on an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and occurrence of an incident of tearing down of three banners of the same organisation recently.

Tension ensued when some unidentified persons tore down three colourful banners of ICS hung in front of Rabintra Arts building, Library and on the Shibir tent at night on January 13.

Tension sparked when a Shibir activist identified as Hadiuzzaman, a Masters student of Islamic Studies Department was beaten by some 'terrorists' on January 15 near Shahidullah Arts building.

Panic gripped the campus as the admission test for BA first year honours of the university started on January 13 which will conclude on January 27. Though the RU authorities have banned all types of processions and rallies during admission tests on the campus, yet the ICS activists brought out processions protesting the

attack and tearing down of their banners on January 15. ICS submitted a memorandum consisting of 3-point demand to Vice-chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Farouque.

They demanded immediate probe and exemplary punishment to the culprits involved in the incidents and demanded more tighter security on the campus at night.

The incident agitated some cadres of both ICS and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) so much that any time some bloody clashes might occur on the campus.

Meanwhile, JCD, ICS and Gonatantrik Chhatra Oikka brought out processions on Wednesday on the campus disregarding the ban imposed by the RU authorities.

Thousands of admission seekers became frightened.

When contacted Proctor Prof Nurul Abshar said to this correspondent, they had been permitted to bring out procession only for 15 minutes on that day.

RU convener of JCD said in this connection, "we can not abide by the order of the university authorities which harms our organisational activities.

## Free treatment of leprosy, TB patients in Gopalganj

ALIMUZZAMAN MIAH, Gopalganj

A total of 230 leprosy and 2,113 tuberculosis (TB) patients abandoned by their families have been fully cured after being treated free of cost for five years under a project run by World Health Organisation (WHO).

The patients have been treated under Gopalganj TB and Leprosy Control Project and Combined TB and Leprosy Unit in different upazila health complexes in Gopalganj Sadar, Kasiani, Muksudpur,

Katalipara and Tungipara.

Md Mokades Hossain, Junior Consultant of TB Clinic, Gopalganj told The Daily Star correspondent, 20 to 25 TB patients come to the hospital every day from different areas of Gopalganj. He further said the patients are both young and old aged between 30 to 65.

Out of the total leprosy patients, 25 have been treated in 1996, 28 patients in 1997, 30 patients in 1998, 67 patients in 1999, 45 patients in 2000 and 35 patients up to December 2001. A total of 230

leprosy patients have been treated in five years.

Once leprosy had been regarded as a curse in the rural areas. Patients did not disclosed the disease due to prejudice. Gopalganj TB and leprosy unit also worked hard to eradicate this superstition.

Meanwhile, 405 TB patients have been treated in 1996, 265 patients in 1997, 373 patients in 1998, 333 patients in 1999, 424 patients in 2000 and 313 patients up to December 2001. A total of 2,113 TB patients have been treated in last five years.

While talking to ABM Mahababul Alam, Civil Surgeon, Gopalganj, he told this correspondent that after two or three years, the country will be free from leprosy totally.

The project gets the financial assistance from Damien foundation, a non-government organisation of Sweden.

## Two killed, 50 hurt in Habiganj road mishap

A CORRESPONDENT, Habiganj

Two persons were killed and 50 injured when a bus fell into a ditch in Baniachang upazila skidding off Habiganj-Baniachang road last week.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at about 10:30 am as the driver lost control over the steering.

The dead were identified as bus driver Afzal Mia and passenger Habibullah, 65.

## JCD-ICS clash leaves four injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least four persons were injured in a clash between activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on the Government BL College campus on Monday noon.

Two of the injured have been identified as Haider of ICS and Lablu of Bangladesh Chhatra League. Lablu was beaten badly by the Shibir activists with sticks.

Eyewitnesses said JCD activists came under attacks by the Shibir activists on the campus. Later, the Shibir activists stormed into Zoha, Mohsin and Titumir halls and ransacked all the rooms. They allegedly looted money and other belongings of the students aligned with JCD.

They further said the activists of both the groups used firearms and handmade bombs and hurled brickbats at all the classrooms where Masters students sat for their examinations.

## Clash on Pirojpur court premises

UNB, Pirojpur

Two groups of people clashed in Pirojpur court premises on Monday when a meeting on law and order situation was going on inside the local Collectorate building.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Azmal Hossain and Police Super Abdullah Al Azad Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

Police said supporters of Shikder group and Monir group locked into the clash when they came to appear before the court. Two people were injured in the clash.

Locals said policemen, who were present at the scene during the melee, were just observers.

At that moment, two magistrates came forward and caught two people red-handed and handed over them to police. Later, more police rushed to the spot and arrested four others.

The arrested were identified as Altaf Hossain Sikder, Alkas Sikder, Al Amin, Sheikh Monir Hossain, Sheikh Abdur Rashid and Shahid.

Police filed a case against 17 people under Public Safety Act (PSA).

## Stolen garment machines seized: 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police in a raid seized five machines to be used in a garment factory from city's Roufabad colony area in Baizid Bostami thana on Sunday night.

Police also arrested two persons in this connection from the spot.

They were identified as Rabiul Ali, 26, and Md Abdur Rashid, 24. The DB team led by senior assistant commissioner Md Monirul Islam raided the colony at around 9.00 in the night on Sunday and seized the sophisticated machines worth over Tk 15 lakh, police said.

The two arrested 'miscreants' in connivance with a gang of thieves robbed the valuable machines from a garment factory sometimes back and stocked those at a place in the colony, police suspected.



PHOTO: STAR

Activists of Chittagong City University College unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) recently paraded the streets of the port city in a procession demanding unconditional release of Giasuddin Hiru, member of the steering committee of BCL Chittagong city unit.

## Terrorism hinders development in greater Barisal

UNB, Barisal

Unbridled terrorism and bad communication system have been identified as the major problems on the way of overall development and flourish of industry in greater Barisal region.

Speakers from different political parties, professional bodies, members of civil society and representatives from the poor viewed this at an opinion exchange meeting titled "National Poverty Reduction Strategy Process: What, Why and for Whom?" at the Barisal Zilla Parishad Auditorium on Thursday.

People's Empowerment Trust (PET) with collaboration of Actionaid Bangladesh organised the meeting.

The speakers termed terrorism as a 'political problem' of the region that has been vexing the people years after years.

They urged the government to establish agro and gas-based

industry and free the common people of shoal areas from the clutches of terrorists and land-grabbers.

PET Chairperson and Professor of Economics Department of Dhaka University M Akash presented the keynote on the topic while PET Executive Director Mahbulul Huq Ripon also spoke on the occasion.

Language veteran Mosharrif Hossain Nannu, BNP leader Mojibor Rahman Nantu, Awami League leader Khan Altaf Hossain Bhulu, CPB leader Mujibur Rahman Talukder, 11-party leader Nazrul Huq Nilu, JSD leader Abdul Hye Mahabub, journalist-lawyer Manobendra Botbal, woman leader Sajeda Motin, Fatema Khanam, farmer leader Abdul Monnan, sports personality Imdad Hossain, local municipal commissioner Nigar Sultana Honufa, Ujirpr Union Parishad Chairman Abul Kalam Azad Badal, development worker

Anwar Zahid, Fatema Khan, Rahima Sultana Kajoj, Aminur Rasul, Bandana Nath, Mustafijur Rahman, labourer Motaleb Akond and Ismat Ara Parveen took part in the discussion.

Aiming to flourish industrial sector and elimination of poverty of Barisal region, the opinion exchange meeting proposed to develop direct road communication between Mongla and Chittagong port with Barisal.

They also called for stopping repression and oppression on the helpless people of shoal areas by the jotdaar (land lord), distribution of khas land among the genuine landless people and disposal of cases regarding land dispute.

Setting up of gas-based industry in Barisal utilising recently discovered gas at Shahbazpur in Bhola and ensuring effective security measures also came up as proposals in the meeting.