

## NEWS SNAPS

**Bijoy mela begins in B'baria**

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A nine-day Bijoy Mela began in the district on Sunday with various traditional folk items put on display.

State Minister for Land Adv Abdus Sattar inaugurated the fair at a function with Deputy Commissioner Shah Moksed Ali in the chair. Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner ATM Obaidur Rahman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Shorafuddin Ahmed and Principal Mukhlesur Rahman spoke on the occasion. Discussion on various topics including the Liberation War and cultural functions are being organised everyday in the fair.

**35 arrested in Patuakhali**

UNB, Patuakhali

Police in separate drives arrested 35 people including nine wanted criminals from four upazilas of the district in last three days till Sunday.

Of the total, seven were arrested from Sadar, 25 from Golachipa, one from Dasmina and two from Kopalpara upazilas. Separate cases were filed against them.

**Four robbers nabbed in Munshiganj**

UNB, Munshiganj

Local people caught four robbers and beat them up at Nimtola area in Shrinagar upazila on Thursday.

Police said Idris Ali of Sirajdikhan, Shahidul Islam of Kalganj upazila in Munshiganj, Sohel of Karimullabag and Mamun of Jurain in Dhaka were caught while looting a shop in the area. They were later handed over to the police. However, four other gang members including the ringleader fled away. A case was filed.

**Two killed in road accident on Eid day**

UNB, Laxmipur

Two people were killed and six others injured in a tragic road accident at Kazir Khil in Ramganj upazila on the Eid day.

Police and witnesses said a passenger tempo overturned when a Ramganj-bound bus from Dhaka suddenly dashed the vehicle at the point on Dhaka-Ramganj road at 7 am. Tempo helper Didar Khan, 18, and an unidentified passenger died on the spot. The injured were rushed to the local hospital. The bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsy.

**Five-yr old girl hacked to death**

UNB, Laxmipur

A minor girl was hacked to death by a gang of miscreants who tried to loot fish from a pond at Chhiladi village in Sadar upazila on Thursday.

Witnesses said the gang led by Syed Ahmad of the same village went to the pond belonging to Abdur Rob to catch fish forcibly. When Abdur Rob tried to resist the miscreants, they hacked his five-year old daughter to death.



PHOTO: STAR

The ruling four-party alliance took out a mourning procession in Mymensingh town on Monday in memory of those killed in a string of bomb blasts in four cinema halls on Saturday evening.

**Non-payment of bonus, salary****Textile mill workers observe hunger strike on Eid day**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hundreds of aggrieved labourers and officers of Rajshahi Textile Mills observed a day-long hunger strike on Eid day in protest against non-payment of festival bonus and 4 months' salary arrears.

More than 300 employees staged the protest in front of main gate of the mill. They also offered their Eid prayers at the same place.

The Rajshahi Textile Mills Workers' Union called the hunger strike. The Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Jatiya Sramik League and Sramik Kalyan Federation supported the call.

BNP leader and Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, divisional president of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Rafiqul Islam Dulal, district president Md. Shafique, secretary Shahidul Chowdhury, city unit president of Sramik Kalyan Federation Habibur Rahman and woman ward commissioner Anjuara joined

the hunger strike to express solidarity with the striking workers.

Addressing the hunger strikers, Mayor Minu assured that he will take up the issue to the parliament to solve it.

Workers' Union President Wares Ali, Sramik League leader Abdur Razzaque, Sramik Dal leaders Wazed Ali Khan and Hasibul Islam Bala and Sramik Kalyan Federation leader Sultan Islam also spoke.

The employees who began hunger strike at six in the morning broke their fast at around 1.00pm at the request of the mayor who offered them sherbet.

Eid brings joy and happiness to all, but it was a totally different scene at the huts of labourers of the mills. Their family members are leading a miserable life where Eid has no special meaning.

Zakir Hossain, a labourer, broke down in tears when describing their situation. He said that they have been passing their days in great misery without any food for months together.

**BOGRA diary****Expelled JCD leader arrested**

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested an expelled Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader from Badurtola area on December 3.

According to sources, Sadar police arrested Nahid, son of Fazal Haque, during a raid on his house.

Earlier on November 23, Nahid and others damaged the furniture and glass of the Circuit House and misbehaved with central leaders of JCD alleging vote rigging in the JCD council.

Later, the JCD central committee expelled eight leaders and activists of Bogra Zila unit, including Nahid, for their anti-organisational activities. They also lost their preliminary membership.

On December 1, police also arrested another expelled JCD leader Moniruzzaman Monir from District BNP Office.

**Husband commits suicide after beating wife**

One person committed suicide by taking poison after beating up and injuring his wife seriously at Krishnapur village under Shibganj Upazila on the night of December 2.

The dead was identified as Rezaul, 40, son of Afzal Hossain.

Police said Rezaul beat up his wife Beauty during a family feud. At one stage, he hit her in the neck with a dao (kitchen knife), leaving her injured critically. But thinking she is dead, Rezaul took poison.

Local people rushed them to Shibganj Hospital where Rezaul died the next morning. Later, Beauty was shifted to Mohammad Ali Hospital.

**Youth stabbed**

One youth was stabbed by the miscreants in Rahman Nagar area of the town on December 3.

He was identified as Ashfaq Shahid Roni, 20, son of Ashraf Alam of Malotinor area. A gang of miscreants stabbed him in his leg when he protested their misbehaviour.

He is now undergoing treatment at Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital.

**Arms recovered**

Police recovered an abandoned foreign-made revolver with two bullets from the roof of two-storey building at Sutrapur Gohail road on December 3.

According to local people, Sadar police recovered a Chinese revolver from the roof of Dr. Kazem Uddin's house at about 12:40pm. Police suspected that the miscreants left it there in fear of army drive.

**Road accidents kill two**

Collision between passenger buses and between trucks left two people killed recently.

The collision between Gaibandha-bound bus and Faridpur-bound bus took place on Bogra-Rangpur highway at Baghopara under Sadar Upazila in the morning on December 5, leaving one person dead and 10 others injured.

The dead was identified as Mukter Hossain Mukta, son of Robi Sheikh of Anderphota Para under Shahzadpur Upazila of Sirajganj district.

The injured were admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital.

In another incident, a truck helper was killed and three others were injured on December 3.

The dead was identified as Nadim, 25, son of Abdul Gofur of Shalgaria village in Pabna.

Police said a Rajshahi-bound truck from Bogra collided head on with a Bogra-bound truck on Bogra-Natore road at Birgram under Sadar Upazila, leaving Nadim dead on the spot.

**IU admission tests****Distribution of forms begins Dec 21**

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Islamic University (IU) authorities will start distributing application forms for admission for the first year honours classes under the 2002-2003 academic year on December 21.

Application forms will be available at the IU branch, Thanapara Kushtia branch and Jhenidah main branch of the Agrani Bank. The price of the application forms has been fixed at Tk 300 each. The last date for submitting the forms is January 23. And no forms will be given after January 22.

This year the admission tests will be held under four units Ka, Kha, Ga and Gha units instead of department-wise tests. And the admission test will be held in MCQ system instead of written tests.

As per decisions by the authorities, all departments of the Business Administration faculty will be under Gha unit, all departments of the Applied Science and Technology faculty under Ga unit, all departments of the Law, Humanity and Social Science faculties under Kha unit and all departments of the Theology and Islamic Studies faculty under Ka unit. Admission seekers are to apply separately for each unit.

Those who have passed higher secondary (HSC) examinations in the year 2001 or 2002 are eligible for admission. And the candidates should have at least second division in Secondary School Certificate

(SSC) and HSC or equivalent examinations. The admission tests for Ka and Kha units will be held on January 27 and Ga and Gha units on January 28.

The admission test results will be published on February 7. And the first year honours classes will start on March 12 next year.

For further details, admission seekers can contact the officials at the registrar office during office hours.

**OMS dealer arrested in Rangamati**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

An OMS (open market sale) dealer and a black marketeer were arrested from the Rangamati town and sent to jail for their alleged involvement in selling foodgrains allocated for OMS dealers on the black market.

Army men arrested dealer Mujibur Rahman and Sidique Ahmed from the Vedvedy area and seized 20 sacks of rice during a raid at around 4.00am on December 5.

Siddique bought the foodgrains and kept these sacks in a room behind his grocery shop, Kotwali police said.

Later, the sacks of foodgrains were handed over to police.

**Missing youth found dead in Barisal**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A young man who had been missing for the last 13 days was found dead near Babuganj town under Barisal district on December 5.

Police recovered the body of Sirajul Islam Sujon, 19, son of Yunus Bhandari of Kathal Bagan area of Dhaka.

Sujon came to Babuganj on November 23 for business purpose. But he had been missing since then after one Jewel called him out from his shop at Babuganj.

Police recovered his body from a pond near agriculture institute of Babuganj but failed to establish the motive for the killing.

**Magura clash leaves 30 injured**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 30 people were injured, nine of them seriously, in a clash between two groups of villagers at Baralidah in Sreepur Upazila on Monday.

A land dispute led to the clash in which both the groups one led by Abul Kalam Moka and the other by Sohrab Sheikh used lethal weapons.

Five seriously injured Mofiz Uddin, 35, Torab Ali, 40, Sohrab Sheikh, 42, Shahidul Islam, 26, and Rajab Ali Sheikh, 56, were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

**BNP factions clash in Magura: 15 injured**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 15 people were injured, four of them seriously, in a clash between two rival factions of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at village Panighata in Mohammadpur upazila on December 7.

Witnesses said supporters of Aktaruzzaman and Mohmud Mian, president and general secretary respectively of BNP Nahata union unit, clashed over establishment of their supremacy in the area.

Both the feuding groups used lethal weapons during the clash.

Four seriously injured people identified as Shamsur, 30, Nannu, 35, Ikram, 50, and Rabiul 30, were admitted to Magura Sadar hospital.

**Shortage of seeds hits crop cultivation**

UNB, Thakurgaon

Cultivation of winter crops in the district may face setback due to seed shortage and high price of fertilisers.

Department of Agriculture Extension has undertaken a programme to cultivate rabi crops on over 1.23 lakh hectares of land in the district in the current season.

Of the total land, 36,400 hectares of land would be brought under boro paddy, 63,100 hectares under wheat, 6,000 hectares under potato, 550 hectares under sweet potato, 5,000 hectares under mustard and 800 hectares under maize.

Besides, vegetables will be cultivated on 4,500 hectares of land, pulses on 5,200 hectares and spices on 2,300 hectares.

According to the Agriculture officials, BADC has sanctioned 227 mts of wheat seeds, 27 mts of boro seeds and 375 kgs mustard seeds as against the demand of 9,465 mts, 1,365 mts and 40 tons respectively.

The BADC has already distributed 50 per cent seeds through its sale centres and dealers till December 8.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Extension Department has set up some demonstration plots in the district for seed production and preservation at growers' level.

Besides, some 24 tons of wheat seeds, two tons of boro seeds and chemical fertilizers have been distributed among the farmers free of cost under Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme.

**Acute drinking water crisis in Netrakona**

UNB, Netrakona

People in Netrakona have been facing an acute shortage of drinking water for a long time due to lack of initiative to repair the disordered tubewells.

Finding no other alternative, people of the district are compelled to use contaminated pond and canal water causing outbreak of different water borne diseases like dysentery, diarrhoea and jaundice.

Tubewells sunk at government initiative are not sufficient to meet the increasing demand for water. Moreover, most of the tubewells remained out of order throughout

the year.

Water supply is also seriously being hampered in the workable tubewells due to sharp fall in ground water level.

Locals alleged that the district administration in general and local Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in particular so far took no proper initiative to repair or replace the disordered tubewells.

An engineer of local DHE told that they have recently undertaken repair works of disordered tubewells after getting the approval from the higher authorities who took much time in this regard.

**3 arrested for preparing false marriage documents**

UNB, Jessore

The members of the joint forces arrested three people from Gobindapur village in Monirampur upazila here recently on charge of preparing false marriage documents to show a girl student of class six as the wife of one of them.

Father of the girl Afsar Morol alleged that Abdul Jalil, 35, of the same village attacked his house several times showing the false marriage certificate, which indicated that the marriage was taken place on June 17 this year.

Jalil also threatened to abduct the girl, her fathers said.

On receiving a complaint, the members of the joint forces arrested Abdul Jalil and his two accomplices.

**Clash over lottery draw Mob damages UP office in Thakurgaon**

UNB, Thakurgaon

At least 20 people were injured and a local UP office was damaged in an attack by a mob over a lottery draw in the district on Saturday.

Police said local rickshaw and van workers union had sold lottery tickets from its Kachubari Board office unit on the occasion of Eid and fixed Saturday for its draw.

But the authority shifted the date for lottery draw, triggering protests among the ticket buyers.

The angry people ransacked the union office, torched it and looted a TV set, a cassette player and some other materials kept for lottery prizes.

They also ransacked the local union parishad office.

On information, police rushed to the spot and arrested three people.