

## NEWS SNAPS

## Bijoy mela in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

A month-long Bijoy Mela-2002 began here on Tuesday amid much enthusiasm and fanfare.

The mela at the Hasan Ali Govt. High School ground will be formally inaugurated on December 14, two days ahead of the Victory Day. Over 100 makeshift shops and stalls have been set up at the mela and portraits of Bir Shresthas put up on display near the entrance gate. The programmes include seminar, discussion, drama and cultural functions, organizers said.

## Arms recovered from pond

UNB, Chandpur

Army-led joint forces in a drive recovered 13 weapons from a pond at Paragon village in Kochua upazila on Sunday.

The weapons, including a pipe-gun, a revolver, four Chinese axes, two machetes and five knives, were wrapped in a bag. Acting on a tip-off, the joint forces led by Major Mirza Monwar Reza pumped water out of the pond behind the house of Abul Hussain and recovered the weapons.

## 3 arrested for felling trees

UNB, Jhenidah

Police arrested three people from Gazipur village in Harinakunda upazila for felling trees along the bank of a canal on Monday night.

Police said the arrestees Abdur Razzak, his son Bakul and son-in-law Borhan chopped off seven trees worth over Tk 16,000 on November 28. The trees were planted under social afforestation programme.

## Forged stamps worth Tk 1.3cr seized

UNB, Gazipur

The members of joint forces in a raid at a house at village Bara Kanchanpur in Kallakoir upazila seized counterfeit stamps worth over Tk 1.30 crore on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team led by Captain Ahad raided the house of Dewan Mukul of the village and seized the forged stamps.

They also arrested Shabuj, 18, Nazrul Islam, 40, Samiruddin, 51, Rahima, 35, and Afsar, 40, in this connection. The house owner was not at home during the raid.

A case was filed with the police.



A colourful procession was brought out in Pabna on Tuesday, the first day of the eight-day celebrations marking the 12th anniversary of Pabna Community Clinic and Victory Day.

## Lack of facilities at Benapole border irks travellers

UNB, Jessore

Despite earning crores of taka in travel tax, Benapole Immigration and Customs authority failed to provide minimum facilities to the travellers.

Every year, lakhs of people go to India through the Benapole Land Port for which each passenger has to pay Tk 500 since July. Earlier the tax was Tk 250.

The users including the passengers and employees alleged that they have to wait for long under the open sky even in rainy or sunny days to pay the travel tax.

The place being used for the collection of fees is also unfit for use and is considered abandoned place by the authority.

"Here is no place to sit," said an employee preferring

anonymity. Travellers also alleged that there is no shed for them.

According to officials, the port authority has already earned about Tk 9.03 crore in travel tax in last 11 months.

In November, 27,202 people travelled to India paying Tk 1.25 crore in travel tax and the port earned record amount of Tk 1.36 crore in October.

The travellers also alleged that the authority is quite indifferent to the woes of the travellers.

The worst sufferers are the passengers of Dhaka-Kolkata bus service who have to wait long in the queue. They urged the authority concerned to look into the matter and take immediate steps to redress their sufferings.

## 10-yr old girl violated in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A ten-year old girl was violated at village Tetutala in Jhenidah Sadar Upazila on Monday evening by a youth of the same village.

The girl was picking up paddy from a paddy field when the youth took her to bamboo cluster nearby and raped her.

Her father filed a case with the Jhenidah police accusing Milon, 23, of rape. The girl was admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. However, nobody was arrested.

## Two arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The joint forces have arrested two youths on charge of extortion and other crimes recently.

They were identified as Ashrafal Alam of Halidhani village and Nurul Islam of Kamta village.

Earlier, both of them were granted bail by the court.

## The day Kurigram won freedom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

The people of Kurigram town will never forget the day they were freed from the grips of Pakistan occupation forces in 1971.

Hundreds of jubilant people, who put up a fierce resistance against the Pakistani soldiers, came out on roads dancing, singing and chanting slogans of victory at the dawn of December 6 to celebrate their hard-earned freedom.

In the wake of fierce battle with the freedom fighters on the night of December 5, the Pakistan occupation forces finally retreated from Kurigram town, then sub-divisional headquarters. Their local collaborators Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams also fled the town.

It was not easy for the Pakistani soldiers to take control of the town. They encountered fierce resistance when they tried to enter the town on March 29, 1971. The town remained free until April 13, 1971.

In the subsequent months, many freedom fighters embraced martyrdom during their struggle to free the town from the clutches of Pakistani soldiers who killed hundreds of innocent people.

The people of Kurigram still feel proud of its heroic sons who laid their lives for the country. Lt. Abdus Samad, Prof. Abdul Wahab Talukder, jail police constable Lal Mohammad, Ansar Ali, Sajjad Ali and Jahir Uddin, to name just a few, are among them.



Different socio-cultural organisations formed a human chain in Mymensingh town on Tuesday demanding arrest of and punishment to those responsible for the bomb blasts at four cinema halls.

## Spices being smuggled out of country

UNB, Chapainawabganj

When the government is struggling to keep supply of spices smooth and prices stable through import, a section of black marketeers in the district are engaged in smuggling these items to India.

The items include garlic, cumin, black cumin, coriander, black pepper, cinnamon and archaic.

These items are being brought from Dhaka and Chitagong and smuggled to India through the frontier areas of Sadar, Shibganj and Bholahat upazilas, sources said.

In separate drives, border guards seized huge quantity of these items during smuggling.

On December 2, a joint force of a BDR team led by 6 Battalion Commander Captain Golam Monjur Siddique and a task force team led by magistrate Zahirul Islam raided a godown at old Sadarghat area in Nawabganj town and seized huge quantity of spices worth over Tk 5.60 lakh.

The spices included 13,520 kg garlic, 180 kg cumin, 61 kg black pepper, 150 kg black cumin, 1,177 kg coriander, 165 kg pepper, 96 kg cinnamon and 150 kg archaic.

Earlier, the BDR jawans searched a house at Bottala area and seized huge quantity of garlic kept ready for smuggling. One person was arrested during the raid.



Students of SSC 1998 batch arranged an Eid reunion on the public library premises in Magura on December 9.

## Two UPDF supporters abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two supporters of the United Peoples Democratic front (UPDF) were kidnapped following a shootout with the supporters of Parbatya Chattagram Janashanghati Samity (PCJSS) at Nakhaichhori in Kawkhali Upazila of the district on Monday.

One person identified as Sonai Chakma, 40, was also injured in the shootout. He was admitted to Kawkhali Upazila Health Complex with bullet wounds in his back and left leg, police and hospital source said.

The abducted persons are Bipon Chakma, 27, and Khokon Chakma, 30. The two are known as pro-UPDF men, sources said.

The rival groups exchanged fire at around 11.00 am when a group of UPDF activists was passing through the village.

Earlier on November 25, four tribesmen were reportedly killed at Kutukchhari during a shootout between the two rival groups.

## One robbed of Tk 1 lakh in Patuakhali

UNB, Patuakhali

Muggers looted over Tk one lakh from an employee of a businessman in Dasmina upazila on Eid day.

The gang waylaid Chanu Chandra Das, employee of businessman Shambhu Nath of Kalaiya of Bauful upazila, when he was returning home after collecting Tk 1.07 lakh from another businessman in Dasmina in the afternoon.

Police arrested Mahub Alam Liton of Dakkhin Adampur village in Dasmina upazila in this connection.

## Forlorn, forgotten

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Freedom fighters are the bravest sons of the country. They fought for the country and many of them embraced martyrdom during the Liberation War.

But now most of them are living a miserable life, struggling to meet both the ends.

One of them is Abdul Jalil, 53. Illness has taken everything from his life. Now he has been passing his days in utter frustration.

As a freedom fighter, Abdul Jalil has received only a grant of Tk 5,400 and a certificate in the last 30 years.

Confronted with poverty, he has been residing with his four-member family in a worn-out house village Khubjipur under Gurudaspur Upazila.

With a Master's in English, Abdul Jalil joined a college as a lecturer in early 1975. He was transferred to the Sylhet MC College the same year. He joined the college but had to return home only after seven days as he fell sick there.

Illness had prevented him from joining the college in due time.

Eventually, he lost the job.

Since then he has managed to maintain his family with a meager earnings. And all his landed property was sold out to meet the cost of his treatment.

Rezia Begum, wife of Abdul Jalil, lamented that freedom fighters now do not command respect from others. "There were days when people came to their house to show respect to her husband, but those days are gone by," she said.

Abdul Jalil now lives with one son and a daughter as his two other sons have left them after their marriage.

Atiqul Islam, their youngest son, is a farm labourer. His meager income is not sufficient for survival.

Noor Jahan, their only daughter, had to drop out from school due to utter poverty when she was a student of class eight.

Matur Rahman, a government college teacher and a resident of the Khubjipur village, said it is a tragic for a freedom fighter to live such a miserable life.

He urged the authorities concerned to extend help to this distressed freedom fighter.

## Wife beaten to death for dowry in Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Bishnupur village in Sadar upazila here early Monday.

The victim was identified as Selina Begum, 25, wife of Ebarot Sheikh of the village.

Rustom Sheikh, father of Selina Begum, alleged that Ebarot had tortured Selina for dowry money of Tk 25,000 since her marriage three years back.

He further alleged that Ebarot killed his daughter although he paid a portion of the money.

## Husband stabs wife for dowry in Nilphamari

UNB, Nilphamari

A man allegedly stabbed his wife at Buhuli village in Sadar Upazila on Thursday for refusing to bring dowry money from her parent's house.

Locals said Abujar was angry with his wife Masuma Begum, 30, as she gave birth to three girl children one after another since their marriage 10 years back.

On the fateful day, he picked up a quarrel with Masuma and asked her to bring Tk 50,000 in dowry money from her father. As Masuma refused to comply with his order, Abujar stabbed her indiscriminately.

Masuma was rushed to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. A case was filed in this connection.



Freedom fighter Abdul Jalil now leading a miserable life.