

## SNAPS

IU Silver Jubilee  
Nov 30  
A CORRESPONDENT, IU

The Silver Jubilee of Islamic University (IU) will be celebrated on November 30. Vice-Chancellor Prof M Rafiqul Islam announced this at a press conference on Sunday. Prime Minister and chancellor of the university Khaleda Zia will open the two-day programme to mark the occasion. Interested persons are requested to register their names on payment of Tk 500 by October 31.

**Jhalakathi poura re-polling postponed**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Re-election to Jhalakathi pourasava has been postponed for an indefinite period. Pourasava sources said the re-election, earlier scheduled to be held on October 17, was postponed as per directives of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. Returning Officer and Jhalakathi Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Munshi Iqbal Hossain, in a circular, said the Appellate Division has postponed the election until further order. The Election Commissioner circulated the order to the returning officer, the source said.

**11 AL men accused in BNP leader murder case**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Eleven Awami League (AL) leaders and workers were named as accused persons in BNP leader Rumi Chowdhury murder case.

Lovely Chowdhury, widow of the slain leader filed the case against them with Tangail police on Friday. They are AL leaders Faruk Khan and Ataur Rahman Khan including his four sons, also AL workers.

Rumi Chowdhury was shot dead by assailants in Tangail town on Thursday.

Lovely mentioned that AL leader Amanur Rahman Khan Rana, city AL general secretary Sahidur Rahman Khan Mukti and the younger brother of Mukti Jahidur Rahman Khan Kakon went to her house wearing veils. At first Rana attacked Rumi with a sharp weapon and he cried out for help. Then Rana shot at her husband's chest with revolver causing his instantaneous death.

PHOTO: STAR

Anwara Khatun with some of the women workers at her garments factory.

**9x3**

## Anwara's silent revolution

She has employed 40 at her garments factory, trained and rehabilitated 450 distressed women

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Fighting against 'Fatwa' given by some local so-called clerics, once poor Anwara Khatun Moina, is not only self-reliant now but also a successful entrepreneur.

She has set the example by dint of hard work, devotion and talent. Her success is now a matter of discussion for many in Satkhira town.

Fifty-two year old Anwara Khatun with a scissors in hand remains always busy cutting fabrics on the table for making clothes at her factory or giving instruction to others.

Many cast a curious look at her well decorated garment shop at Puratan Satkhira in the town.

Abandoned by her husband, Anwara had started dress making at home to feed her two minor sons and a daughter.

Now she employs about 40 women and owns a well decorated garment shop and runs a tailoring training centre. She has also a house of her own.

She is now well known in the

town as a successful entrepreneur and a tailoring trainer.

"There was no one to care for us for long 20 years. No one ever inquired when I was starving along with my two sons and one daughter," Anwara recalled while talking to this correspondent recently at her garment factory.

Those days are gone. She now earns at least Tk 25,000 a month.

Anwara is now involved in different activities for women's development in the town.

Born in a poor family in the town, beautiful Anwara was married to Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman at the age of 15 in 1972. Rahman was the son of a solvent farmer in the area.

They had happy days. She gave birth to two sons and one daughter. But it was not long that her dreams were shattered. Her husband fell in love with another woman of the same village and wanted to marry her.

She protested. He used to beat her often. At times her in laws also joined him.

One day, she along with her

three children was driven out of her husband's house. He finally divorced her in 1985. She took shelter at her father's house.

But she was undaunted. She started working as a domestic help but could not manage two meals a day for her children and herself.

"One day my younger son Tutul, went to his father for food but he drove him out. Coming back home he tried to commit suicide," she said.

"The painful incident made me determined to fight poverty and to educate my children so that they do not have to face the same fate like me".

Fortune smiled on them when ASA (Association for Social Advancement), an NGO, offered her training in tailoring and promised micro-credit.

ASA's branch manager Das Sanatan advised her to take training on tailoring. She started attending training course but some so-called clerics tried to obstruct her from going out of home for work, saying it is prohib-

ited in Islam. But she ignored.

As she topped the list of trainees, the training centre authorities gave her sewing machine as prize.

ASA also gave her loan of Tk 7,000.

She bought fabrics and started dress making at home. Her neighbors and well-wishers were the customers in the initial days. She also collected orders other areas in the town.

Day by day, she earned reputation as a good dressmaker in the town. Her devotion and skill helped her. People especially women began to come to her with orders from different areas of the town.

As the workload increased, she set up a well decorated garment shop at Puratan Satkhira in the town.

"Gradually I learnt block, batik and printing and set up a cottage industry at a rented house".

Now she gets order for all types of readymade garments from traders at faraway places. "Many of them pay me in advance", a happy Anwara said. Within five years, Moina reached a position that encouraged others. Forty women now work in her factory.

"It is a great satisfaction that 40 women are earning from my factory", she said.

She also set up a tailoring training centre to train distressed women on tailoring.

Sixty women attend the training course daily in three batches.

"It is also a great pleasure for me that at least 450 women trained by me are now have become self-reliant".

Her efforts have created awareness and hopes for better life among many distressed women in the town.

Anwara plans to expand her factory to provide jobs for about 250 unemployed women. "I will need financial support from bank or NGO for this", she said.

"Recently I married off my daughter Nipa and my son-in-law runs a biscuit factory. They are happy", she said.

Her elder son Sheikh Masudur Rahman is a fish trader.

"I fought and won. I am grateful to ASA for the initial financial help", she said.

## BAU post-flood rehabilitation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Bangladesh Agricultural University Extension Centre (BAUEC) has started post-flood rehabilitation of farmers in worst affected Char Kalibari and Char Nilakshia villages in the Sadar Upazila.

BAUEC has so far distributed paddy seedling among 60 families, fish fries among 80 families, goats among 15 families, poultry among 15 families, hand driven weeder among 30 families, winter vegetable seedlings among 93 families and vegetable seeds among 100 families.

Sources in the BAUEC said they will also continue poultry vaccination till March next year.

The BAUEC is conducting its post-flood rehabilitation programme in the affected areas through its trained manpower, who are also advising farmers on agriculture, poultry and fishery.

BAU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Amirul Islam inaugurated the post-flood rehabilitation programme at a simple function at BAU recently. Speaking on the occasion, he said the rehabilitation programme will continue till the next Boro season.

The BAUEC also provided assistance to farmers in the Sadar upazila after the 1988 and 1998 floods.



PHOTO: STAR  
BAU VC Prof Dr Muhammad Amirul Islam handing over a weeder to a flood affected farmer in Mymensingh Sadar upazila recently.



PHOTO: STAR  
LPG cylinders being carried for sale in the black market in Bogra town. The photo was taken on Sunday. A cylinder sold at between Tk 390 and Tk 420 before the Ramadan now costs Tk 530-Tk 550.

## Anti-drug meeting held in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

An anti-drug meeting was held at Halderpara club here on Friday where people promised to help police nab drug peddlers and drug addicts from their area.

Brahmanbaria Dhumpan-O-Madak Birodh Sangathan, a non-smoking and anti-drug organisation, organised the meeting which was presided over by Master Osman Gani.

Civil society members, youths and people of all walks of life took part in the meeting spontaneously.

Superintendent of Police (SP), Brahmanbaria ATM Tarek was chief guest while Additional SP Md Jahangir Hussain was special guest.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by ASP (circle Sadar) Md Kamruzzaman, Brahmanbaria Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge (OC)

**5x3**

**6x3**