

## 5 more killed in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

Three suspected robbers and two outlaws died in so-called crossfire with police and Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) in Jhenidah, Noakhali and Natore yesterday, sending the death toll in the law enforcers' action in 11 days to 22 and 169 since January last year.

Kotchandpur police arrested Shanti, 40, a top cadre of outlawed party Janajuddha, in the Jhenidah upazila headquarters Monday evening and took him to Kotchandpur Police Station for interrogation, our Magura correspondent reports.

Police said their men took Shanti, who faced several cases including three for murders, to Alangi village to 'recover' arms, following 'leads' extracted from him.

As they reached a field in Alangi, Janajuddha operatives 'fired' on them at around 3:45am and police also 'retaliated', said a police officer from the police station.

Shanti 'attempted to flee from the police van' during an hour-long 'shootout' and died on the spot, police claimed.

They also claimed that Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Saheb Ali and constables Mahabul and Serajul were wounded in the shooting and that they retrieved one pipe-guns and two rounds of bullet from the spot.

In another raid on Borobazar of Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah, Kaliganj police arrested infamous bandit leader Goutam, 45, allegedly a leader of inter-district robbers' gang, Monday noon.

Police later took him to Pirojpur, a village beside Kaliganj-Jessore highway, to seize arms where Goutam's accomplices were learnt to have been to carry out a robbery.

A police officer said his associates fired on the law-enforcers when they reached there at 2:00am. They also fired back and Goutam died when he 'tried to get down from a police van'. The officer said two

constables were also injured in the 'shootout'. Police recovered a pipe-guns, four bullets and other weapons.

**NOAKHALI**

Yakub Ali alias Jahangir, 30, and Shahjahan alias Badshah, 28, suspected gangsters involved in Sunday's robbery of Rupali Bank, were gunned down at Chhotohasanpur village in Begumganj upazila early yesterday.

Police arrested Shahjahan in Choumohoni, hours after robbers shot and killed autorickshaw driver Nabi Nabi and knifed two staff of Rupali Bank while robbing the bank staff of Tk 8 lakh. Yakub was arrested in Chawkbazar on Monday.

Going by their confession, police took Yakub and Shahjahan to Chhotohasanpur village to arrest Liton, another gang member, at 2:00am Monday night.

When police cordoned Liton's house, he and his accomplices opened fire to trigger a gunfight, police said.

Yakub and Shahjahan took bul-

lets during the incident and were taken to the General Hospital where Shahjahan died late in the night. Yakub died on way to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital yesterday.

**NATORE**

Rab arrested Moslem Mollah, 28, who is also known as Omar, vice president of Rajshahi Division chapter of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML) in Jigirhat of Bagatipara upazila in Natore Monday night, our Rajshahi correspondent reports.

A Rab-5 team took him to Ramananda Khajura of Shingra upazila in Natore to arrest his associates who, according to Moslem, were hiding there.

His friends could not be found there and Moslem contacted them again over mobile phone and said they were staying in Itali union, said

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

SEE PAGE