

## More than Cattle-Selling



Over 100 people were mugged after being doped last week. The muggers either mixed drugs in food or got their victims to smell them, causing them to become unconscious and robbing them off their possessions. Incidents of mugging increased sharply at cattle markets, bus terminals, launch ghats and railway stations for the last two or three days before Eid. Many people, on their way to selling cattle, and many others on their way home to their villages to celebrate Eid with family became victims, losing large amounts of cash, some, according to a Daily Star report, as much as Tk 60,000. City hospitals also saw a sharp increase in the number of patients hospitalised after falling unconscious. Though they regained consciousness between 12 and 24 hours, the chemicals used to drug them could not be identified due to lack of proper equipment, said a medical officer of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Plainclothes policemen were apparently deployed around the city and six people were arrested on the first day after the crimes. But 45 more people were victimised the very next day. With the recurrence of such a trend every Eid, one would hope that effective measures would be taken to prevent such seasonal crimes.

Bangla Bahai has been raging a self-styled holy war against what he likes to refer to as 'crime' in north Bengal. His reign has taken a beating last Saturday. Three Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) men were lynched by the mob on the night they came to take the life of a Union Parishad Chairman in Bagmara. It was the attempt by JMJB men to organise a procession in protest against the lynching that resulted in the clashes with police reinforced by Rab brought in from Rajshai Police Line to tackle the situation. The clashes left at least 50 people, including eight policemen, injured.

Police rounded up 64 JMJB cadres for clashing with the police, but did not detain any of the leaders responsible for leading the clashes.

At Bhabaniganj, Bagmara, on January 24, the scene of turmoil ensued as the attempt to hold a rally by the Bangla-Bhai-led JMJB was foiled. Tear gas shells, rubber bullets and brickbats were used during the clashes,

## Bangla Bhai's Cadres Clash with Police

police sources revealed. A curfew-like situation prevailed following the incident, as police and Rab forces patrolled the region.

It was the first occasion for the JMJB men to have landed in the slammer, and sources said that efforts were on by their brethren to gather arms and recruit armed cadres from different parts of the country. Meanwhile, JMJB leaders vowed to retaliate for the lynching and to battle against the law enforcement agencies if the situation demands.



The Awami League activists protesting the attack on UP chairman.