

# Women add to family income by making hogla mats

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

A large number of women at different villages in Nazirpur upazila under the district are engaged in making floor covers with leaves of hogla, a plant that grows abundantly in vast marshlands in the area.

Most of the women of Dewlbari and Kawaldoania unions in Nazirpur spend a good amount of time in making the item as the work adds to their family income.

Their daughters, mostly school going ones, also help in the work during their free time.

"In addition to doing my

household chores, I make six or seven mats daily. With the income from selling it, I maintain the family expense as my husband is a cancer patient and our children are too young to earn," said Rabeya Begum of Gawkhali village.

Anjoli Rani, another woman of the village, also maintains her family with the earning from selling floor covers made of hogla leaves.

Class VI student Sukhi helps her mother in the work during her free time.

"My husband is a fisherman whose earning is not enough for us. So I make

mats to add to the family income," said Radha Halder, a housewife of Chadkathi village in Nazirpur upazila.

After collecting the hogla leaves from marshlands, it is dried in the sun and sold for good prices to the makers of floor cover.

A bundle of dry hogla leaves bought for Tk 120 can be made into five pieces of floor covers, each measuring six feet by seven and a half feet and wholesalers buy it for Tk 40 each, makers said.

But the amount seems too small, considering the present market prices of daily necessities and cost of

## One jailed for selling fake question papers

UNB, Benapole (Jessore)

A mobile court in Jessore sentenced a young man to seven days' imprisonment for selling fake question papers of primary school teachers' recruitment test.

The convict is Sohel Rana, son of Enamul Haque of Ramkrishnapur village in Chowgachha upazila. Executive Magistrate Abdus Salam said police picked up Rana from in front of MM College in the town at around 9:30am and recovered fake question papers of teachers' recruitment test from his possession.

Rana sold each copy of the question paper for Tk 30,000.

The magistrate handed down the verdict against him.

## 15 injured in BNP-police clash in B'baria

UNB, Brahmanbaria

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between police and BNP workers in Rail Gate area of the district town yesterday.

Witnesses said the clash erupted as police dispersed a procession brought out by BNP activists in the afternoon in support of the party-led 18-party alliance's 84-hour countrywide hartal beginning at 6:00am today.

The BNP activists vandalised several shops, offices and auto-rickshaws in the area during the clash. A chase and counter chase also took place, leaving 15 people injured.

Later, police picked up three people from the scene.



PHOTO: STAR

A woman weaves hogla leaves into a floor cover at Chandkhali village in Nazirpur upazila under Pirojpur district.

## SNIPPETS

### 13 shops gutted

UNB, Bogra

At least 13 shops were gutted in a fire at a market at Kahlalupazila headquarters in the district on Friday. Fire service sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop of the market at around 1:30pm and soon spread to 12 other shops. On information, a firefighting unit from the district headquarters rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after an hour. The shop owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire would be around Tk 50 lakh.

### Man commits 'suicide'

UNB, Benapole (Jessore)

A man committed 'suicide' by hanging himself from the ceiling of his room at Dhopakhola village in Sadar upazila of Jessore on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Abul Hossain, 62, son of late Ali Mia of the village. Police quoted victim's family as saying that Abul had been suffering from a mental illness for long. The family members found his body hanging from the ceiling at around 9:00pm. Being informed, police went to the village, recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed with the police station concerned.

### One held with gun, cocktails

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man with a shutter gun and 11 cocktails from a house of Durgapur village under Raninagar upazila of Naogaon on Friday night. The arrestee was identified as Zaker Ali Khan, 45, son of Jabed Ali of Gona Union Parishad under Raninagar upazila of the district. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-5 raided Zaker's house at the village at around 9:00pm and recovered the gun and cocktails from his possession. Later, the elite force handed Zaker to Raninagar Police Station and filed a case against him.

### Criminal killed by rivals

UNB, Natore

An alleged criminal was stabbed to death and his cohort injured in an attack by their rivals at Bamihal Bazar in Singra upazila yesterday. The dead was identified as Selim, 45, son of Hazi Ahmed Ali in the upazila. Locals said there had been a longstanding dispute between Selim and Afzal, another criminal in the area, over establishing supremacy in the area. As a sequel to the enmity, the supporters of Afzal attacked Selim and Nazimuddin and stabbed them when they were taking tea at the Bazar at around 8:00am. Selim died on the spot and Nazimuddin sustained serious injuries. Nazimuddin was taken to a local hospital. Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

### Criminals set fire to pry school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Criminals looted valuables from Pantapara Government Primary School and set fire to it at Begunbari village under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Friday night. Dilara Begum, headmistress of the school, told this correspondent over cellphone that unidentified criminals set fire to the office room at around 11:00pm and took away some valuable things. Locals rushed to the spot, brought the blaze under control and save the official documents. The headmistress said she informed the local union parishad (UP) chairman and the upazila education officer of the matter.

## Robbers kill one, loot expat's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Robbers killed a man and injured two others at Hijli village in Sadar upazila of Meherpur district early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Abu Balkar Tikka, 35, son of Nur Mohammad of the village.

Police and locals said a gang of 15 to 20 robbers stormed into the house of Ruhul Amin, an expatriate in Kuwait, at the village at around 2:30am.

They confined the family members to a room and looted gold ornaments, Tk 20,000, mobile phone sets and other valuables from the house. As the family members cried for help, the gang blasted a hand bomb.

The injured Hasmat Ali Hasu, 32, and Rahmat Ali, 22, are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

None of the gang members was arrested as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Reazul Islam of Meherpur Sadar Police Station said they have already launched a drive to arrest the robbers.

Hearing screams, neighbours rushed in and chased the robbers, who hurled three crude bombs at the villagers.

Three people, including Tikka, sustained injuries in the bomb attack. They were rushed to Meherpur General Hospital where Tikka died at around 4:30am.

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## Youth hacked to death in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A youth was hacked to death in Bamihal area under Singra upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Selim Uddin, 30, son of Ahmad Ali of the village.

Tarikul Islam, assistant superintendent of police, said there was a conflict between Afjal Hossain and Selim Uddin over establishing supremacy in Bamihal area.

When Selim and his supporter Nazim Uddin were taking tea at a tea-stale at Bamihal Bazar in the morning, ten to 12 supporters of Afjal swooped on Selim and Nazim.

They hit the duo with sharp weapons and left the scene. Selim died on the spot while critically injured Nazim was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital at around 8:15am and recovered.

Meanwhile, the honours first year admission test was held at the university yesterday. The test results will be published by November 12, university sources said.

No case was filed with Singra Police Station in connection with the killing as of 4:00pm yesterday.

Yatesur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Singra Police Station, said police recovered the body and sent it to Natore Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## JCD men clash with cops at BAU, 5 hurt

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least five activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) unit were injured in a clash with police on the campus yesterday noon.

Sohrab Hossain, JCD, organising secretary of JCD BAU unit, is among the injured, reports UNB.

Officer-in-charge Golam Sarwar of Kotwali Model Police station said the clash ensued when police intercepted a JCD procession on the campus at noon.

Meanwhile, the honours first year admission test was held at the university yesterday. The test results will be published by November 12, university sources said.

At least five people were injured during the clash, he said, adding the JCD activists also blasted several crude bombs on the campus.

Our correspondent adds: BCL activists, equipped with rods and hockey sticks, brought out a procession on the campus in presence of the law enforcers. They also exploded eight cocktails.

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