Choosing Profit Over Humanity

Ishwardi, Pabna. A large number of birds are being trapped and killed in Ishwardi upazila as framers set nets to protect their crops. Birds caught in this way, especially migratory ones, are sold in the market. Farmers seem to continue trapping birds as they enjoy a hefty profit in selling them in the market. "Agriculture officials often inspire farmers to use natural means to protect their crop fields from birds. But many farmers are too unaware and use banned current nets for the purpose," said AI Shahin, development officer of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Pabna.



Insulting Education



Nilphamari. This doesn't come as a surprise. Politically motivated miscreants seem to have lost all sense of right and wrong, as they continue attacks on the Hindu community as well as on education institutes across the country. Twenty-one educational institutions, used as polling centres in Nilphamari-1 (Dimla) and Nilphamari-3 (Jaldhaka) constituencies for the January 5 elections, still bear testimony to the barbaric arson attacks by criminals on the polls day and the night before. The attack, committed apparently by anti-election activists, destroyed textbooks, furniture, laboratory apparatus, registers, MPO sheets and service books of teachers and caused damage to the schoolhouses. Teachers and administrations of the schools are trying to get things back to normal but it is a difficult task as even now, students are forced to sit on the floor during classes due to the lack of proper furniture.

Faking It



Lalmonirhat. Some phony herbal practitioners are giving a bad name to the whole profession. A section of fake herbal practitioners, locally known as *kabiraj*, have continued fleecing people in the name of treating paralysis patients in different areas of Lalmonirhat and adjoining districts, taking advantage of the blind faith of innocent villagers. As part of the treatment, a *kabiraj* touches the paralysed patients with different plants and leaves. While chanting of mantra and singing songs continue, little girls dance around the patients, locals said. The paralysed patients are also taken into holes dug on earth for giving another round of 'treatment' at midnight or early morning, when there is hardly anyone to see, they said. Civil Surgeon Dr Jahangir Alam Sarker said, "There is no approval for such so-called *kabiraji* treatment and conditions of paralysis patients are likely to worsen if they receive it."

2 Number of women raped in Monirampur, Jessore, at gun point in front of their family members by criminals for voting in the January 5 election.

14 Percentage of Indians voters who believe Rahul Gandhi would make the best prime minister for India, according to a Times of India survey.

48 Age of a Thai woman trying to sneak into the US-Mexico border in a suitcase in a vehicle.