



This training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) crash-lands on a paddy field near Mahidia Bazar in Sadar upazila of Jessore due to technical fault yesterday noon. Two pilots of the aircraft--Squadron Leader Faruq and Pilot Officer Zamir managed to come out of the aircraft safely.

## Kishoreganj bank heist case goes to Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kishoreganj

Kishoreganj Sonali Bank heist case involving Tk 16.40 crore was handed over to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday to investigate whether there is any militancy connection with the robbery.

Rajib Kumar Deb, ASP of Rab-14, took up the case from police, said Officer-in-Charge Abdul Malek of Kishoreganj Police Station.

The High Court on February 3 ordered the government to hand over the case to the elite force within 48 hours.

The HC also issued a rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why it should not be directed to

bring the mastermind behind the robbery to book.

The court passed the orders acting on a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), seeking directives on the government to unearth the reason behind the sensational burglary.

The court asked the home secretary and the inspector general of police to hand over the case to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) so that the elite force could investigate whether there is any militancy link with the robbery.

An HC bench of Justice Kazi Reza-Ul Haque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain passed the order and issued the rule.

A total of Tk 16.40 crore was kept on a table in the second cell, he said.

## 9 rescued in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued nine people from Putkhali border here while they were being trafficked to India yesterday morning.

Commander M Abdulla of 26 BGB Benapole check post said, being tipped off, a team of BGB raided the area in the morning and rescued the nine, including two kids.

However, the human traffickers fled the scene, sensing the presence of the BGB team.

The rescued people, hailing from different areas of Faridpur and Narail districts, were handed over to Benapole port police station.

A case was filed in this connection.

# They live by 'looting' paddy from rat holes in fields

S DILIP ROY, *Salmonirhat*

A good number of ultra poor people move around paddy fields in search of rat holes during the harvesting period as the grains stored by the rodents become their prize possession.

"Rats take paddy from farmers' fields and store it in their holes as provision for future. Many poor people like me dig the holes to collect the paddy every harvesting period," said Mafizul Islam, 48, of Karnapur village in Salmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"I get 10 to 25 kg of paddy from a rat hole and I can dig two to three holes daily. I have continued the work for the last 15 years," he said.

Meher Ali of the same village said he can collect 20 to 30 maunds of paddy from the rat holes every harvesting season and it serves as a great support for his family in bad times.

"It is a kind of sin to loot deposit of rats from their holes but we do it due to poverty," said Ranjit Chandra Das, 42, at Mrittinga Dola of Mohendranagar village in Salmonirhat Sadar.

"Hearing scream of rats when we dig their holes we

can understand their pain," said Nurul Islam, engaged in the same act at Bhadai village of Aditmari upazila.

"Rats make holes about four to eight feet deep to store paddy. Often we have to search several fields to find a hole as the number of such holes has decreased during the last several

years," said Narayan Chandra Das of the same village.

Several farmers including Nazrul Islam, Abdur Khaleque, Mahir Chandra Barmon and Tazer Ali at Bongram village in Salmonirhat Sadar said they never protest digging the rat holes in the field as rats are harmful for crops.



PHOTO: STAR

A youth collects sheaves of paddy stored by rats in a deep hole at a field at Mohendranagar village in Sadar upazila of Salmonirhat. Ultra poor people of the area collect paddy from rat holes during every harvesting season.

## 2013 ROUND-UP

# Khulna division districts see a spate of crimes

UNB, Khulna

The year 2013, which has just made exit, saw a spate of crimes, including killing, in 10 districts of Khulna division.

The deceased was identified as Monir Uddin, 40, son of Muluk Uddin, a resident Chokshyampur in Sadar upazila, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

Meherpur Sadar police station officer in-charge Atiar Rahman said two cohorts of Monir came by a motorbike and threw a hand bomb and fired shot at him in Nurpur Bazar area before dusk, leaving him critically injured.

He was taken to Meherpur General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 9:30pm.

In Moulvibazar, robbers looted three shops in Saifur Rahman Road area in the district town early yesterday.

According to the affected family, around 10/12 robbers entered Central Pharmacy, Ruma Cloth Store and Hashi Cloth Store and took away values worth around Tk 4 lakh.

In Bogra, DB police arrested two members of an inter-district robbers' gang and recovered the looted goods of Ataur Rahman of Noymail of Shahjahanpur upazila of the district from Araihajar upazila of Narayanganj district early yesterday.

There was also a remarkable number of deaths in political violence in the last month of the year when the 18-party opposition enforced back-to-back agitation programmes, including hartal and blockade.

Sources at the office of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Khulna range, said of the killings, 51 were reported in January, 37 in February, 42 in March, 41 in April, 35 in May, 31 in June, 34 in July, 38 in August, 26 in September, 31 in October, 38 in November and 42 in December.

On December 26 in

Jessore, district unit Krishak

League leader Shafi Kamal,

union level Awami League

leader Robiul Islam and a

former UP member were killed.

On December 4, freedom

fighter Alauddin Khokon

was hacked to death by

criminals in Kaliganj

upazila in Satkhira at mid-night.

On August 8, former

official of power depart-

ment Tayebur Rahman and

his son Nazmun Monir were

killed by slitting throats at

Khalishpur in Khulna city.

On October 31, listed

criminal Masud Rana, also

accused in the murder case

of former Jubo League central vice-president Iqbal Bither, was hacked to death by criminals.

On February 28 in

Satkhira, Shibir activists

Iqbal Hossain Tuhin,

Shahin Alam, Ali Mostafa,

Jamaat activists Mahmudul

Hasan, Robiul Islam,

Saifulullah, Abdus Salam

were killed in attacks alleg-

edly by police and ruling

Awami League cadres.

In addition to the kill-

ings, there have been inci-

dents of torture and abduc-

tion of journalists in the

crime-prone areas of the

division.

On December 4, former

president of Satkhira Press

Club and local correspon-

dent of the Daily Amar Desh

Altaf Hossain went miss-

ing and since then he has

remained traceless.

His disappearance has

created fear among the local

journalist community.

On December 28,

Satkhira correspondent of

the Daily Sangram Abu

Sayed Biswas was arrested

by police.

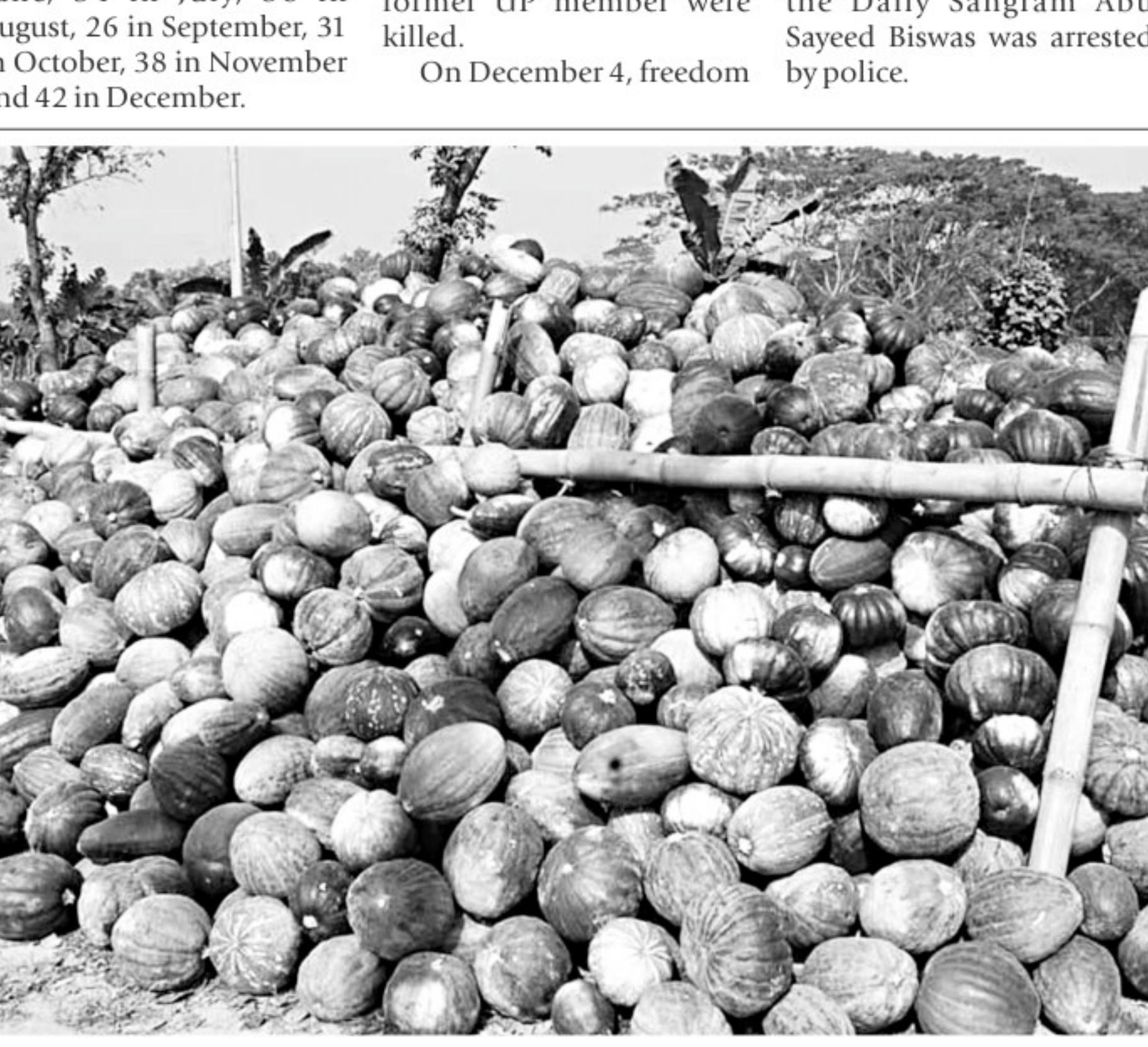


PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Farmers in Devpur area under Rampur union in Chandpur Sadar saw a bumper production of sweet gourds this season. However, they are not getting reasonable prices of the produce for lack of proper marketing.

## ALLEGATION OF ILLEGAL POSTINGS AT COLLEGE

# 11 including Rangpur DC sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Rangpur

Eleven people, including Farid Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Rangpur district and chairman of governing body of Rangpur Law College (RLC), were sued on Tuesday on charge of appointing three part-time teachers illegally at the college.

The complainants lodged the case with the Joint District Judge's Court of Rangpur.

Court sources said, after the hearing, Judge Md. Shariful Islam issued a stay order in this regard on Tuesday evening and asked the disputants to

Jamil Akhter and Jagadish Chandra Burman, part-time teachers of the college, Dr. Rezaul Haque and Dr. Abu Md. Iqbal Rumi Shah, members of governing body, Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, teacher representative, Tofazzel Hossain, Abul Kashem and Md. Anwaruzzaman, guardian members of the college.

The complainants further said, both Rezaul Haque and Jamil Akhter have no Master's Degree. Jagadish Chandra Burman is also a Bachelor Degree holder and now 66 years old, they said.

Meanwhile, Abu Mohammad Mozammel Haque, principal of RLC who is now 81 and a Bachelor Degree holder.

>Contacted, Farid Ahmed, DC of Rangpur, said he was not aware about the issue.

Beside this, the governing body of the college

submitted their answers within next five working days.

The complainants in their case statement said, as per the National University Act 1992, upper limit age of appointment of a principal is 60 and it may be extended to 65 according to the permission of the university and he/she [principal] must be a Master's Degree holder.

But violating the Act, on November 25, 2013, the accused appointed Abu Mohammad Mozammel Haque as the principal of RLC who is now 81 and a Bachelor Degree holder.

Beside this, the governing body of the college

appointed him as the principal without taking any approval from the syndicate of the National University, the complainants claimed.

The complainants further said, both Rezaul Haque and Jamil Akhter have no Master's Degree. Jagadish Chandra Burman is also a Bachelor Degree holder and now 66 years old, they said.

Meanwhile, Abu Mohammad Mozammel Haque, principal of RLC, claimed that he was appointed according to the rules.

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