

## Two to walk gallows for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Manikganj

A Manikganj court yesterday sentenced two people to death in connection with a case for killing a youth in Sadar upazila in 2010.

Manikganj Additional District and Sessions Judge Shahana Haque Siddiqui delivered the verdict around 11:30am in presence of the convicts--Masud of Charhijuli village in Manikganj Sadar upazila and Sanwar Hossain of Tarakandi village in Bogura.

According to the case statement, the two convicts called Ratan, 22, a worker of Basundhara Steel Mills, also son of Bishu Mia of Hijuli village in Sadar upazila, out of his house on March 9, 2010.

They later took Ratan on the bank of Dhaleshwari river, strangled him to death and dumped the body there, before fleeing the spot.

Being informed by the villagers, police recovered Ratan's body from the river next day.

Meanwhile, following a case filed by the deceased's father with Sadar Police Station, police arrested the duo on May 5 the same year, after tracking their mobile phones.

Later, Saiful Islam, sub-inspector and investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the two.

## 30 hurt in AL clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two factions of ruling Awami League (AL) at Kandakul village in Boailmari upazila on Monday.

The injured were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and Boailmari Upazila Health Complex.

The incident occurred when two AL factions clashed on Monday over establishing supremacy in the area.



In this recent photo workers in Raghunathpur village of Kaliganj upazila are seen loading up a mini truck with jute. Farmers in the area are retting jute at distant locations as waterbodies in the vicinity do not have waist-deep water due to a dry spell.

PHOTO:  
STAR

# Jhenidah jute farmers brace for losses

They cannot find waist-deep water in the area for retting the produce

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

An ongoing dry spell has turned waterbodies in Jhenidah almost empty, leaving farmers without much option for retting jute.

Finding no other alternative, many of them have been transporting the produce to distant locations for retting, raising their cost of production.

The additional cost will

ultimately have an adverse effect on their earnings as it will lower their profit margin, said the farmers.

According to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Jhenidah, jute cultivation has expanded from 15,480 hectares last fiscal year (2018-19) to 20,425 hectares during current fiscal year (2019-20)

in the district.

Unfortunately, scanty rain this year might jeopardise the jute farmers' prospect of making much profit, said GM Abdur Rauf, deputy director of DAE in Jhenidah.

At least a waist-deep water is needed for retting of jute, he said, adding that the rainfall recorded in August, only 196 millimetres,

is not sufficient enough.

Farmers said they grew more jute this year with high hopes. But the insufficient rain is likely to put a dent in that hope as they are now spending an additional transport cost of Tk 3,000 for jute grown on each bigha of land.

Farmer Kamal Hossain from Raghunathpur village in Kaliganj upazila said he already spent Tk

14,000 for jute he cultivated on one bigha and unless he finds a place for retting the fibre, he will incur huge losses this year.

Another farmer, Sujit Kumar Biswas, from Belegat in Shailakupa upazila, said his investment of around Tk 41,000 on three bighas of land will be lost if he is unable to extract the fibre after retting.

Police said there was a longstanding conflict between Nur Uddin Panchayet group and Fakir Uddin Panchayet group of the village over establishing supremacy in the area.

As a sequel of the conflict, the men of the two rival groups locked in a clash on Monday, leaving Anwara dead on the spot.

SECOND MARRIAGE

## UP member lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Gaibandha

A union parishad (UP) member in Gobindaganj upazila has been sent to jail in a case filed over his second marriage.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Partha Bhadra passed the order when Rezaul Karim, a member of Taluk-Kanupur UP, was produced before his court in the upazila on Monday.

As the UP member married another woman without his first wife Dilruba Begum's permission, Dilruba on Sunday filed a case against three people with Gobindaganj Police Station under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

The accused are Rezaul Karim, his uncle Anisur Rahman Rana and friend Bipul Gachu.

The following day, police arrested Rezaul, said Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of the police station.

According to the case statement, Rezaul had an extramarital affair with a female vice chairman of the upazila parishad.

Seven days ago, the UP member eloped with the woman, mother of two children. They later got married.

## Woman killed in Sunamganj clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Moulvibazar

A woman was killed and 25 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups in Dakkhin Sunamganj upazila of Sunamganj on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Anwara Begum, 50, wife of Faizur Rahman of Faridpur village.

Police said there was a longstanding conflict between Nur Uddin Panchayet group and Fakir Uddin Panchayet group of the village over establishing supremacy in the area.

As a sequel of the conflict, the men of the two rival groups locked in a clash on Monday, leaving Anwara dead on the spot.



Vast croplands meant for Aman cultivation, like this area of Sardarpar village in Pachgachhi of Kurigram is kept uncultivated this season as the recent floods caused extensive damage to seedlings meant for transplantation.

PHOTO: ABDUL WAHED

# Flood-hit Aman growers opt for early Robi crops

The farmers in Kurigram take the initiative to recoup loss

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

A good number of traditional Aman farmers in Kurigram are going to cultivate Robi crops early to recoup their loss caused by the recent floods.

"I grew Aman saplings on 18 decimals of land for planting those in two acres of land. But the recent flood has damaged all the seedbeds," said Mayez Uddin, 50, of Uttar Nawabshah village of Pachgachhi union under Kurigram Sadar upazila.

"As paddy saplings are not available here after the recession of floodwater I directly put seeds of BRRI-28 rice on one bigha (33

decimals) of land. I hope to get at least a moderate yield if flood does not hit again. I will cultivate pulses and mustard on the rest five bighas of land one and a half months later," Mayez said.

Gaffaree Sardar, 23, of Sardar Para village in the same upazila said paddy saplings on his 16 decimals of seedbeds were damaged by floodwater.

"I could not prepare the seedbeds again as the water remained stagnant on the lands. Now I shall buy saplings for planting in a portion of my 13 bighas of land and cultivate pulse and mustard early on the rest," he said.

Jamal Uddin, 52, of Kadomtala village of Hatiya union under Ullipur upazila said, "As my Aman seedbed was damaged by flood, I am growing Aman saplings afresh on a small piece of land. I shall plant the saplings in one and a half acres of land in mid-September and cultivate early variety of pulses in another one and a half acres."

Kurigram Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has set a target of Aman cultivation on 1,22,159 hectares of land this year but there is very little hope of achieving the target as floods damaged the seedbeds, officials said.

Planting of Aman seedlings will continue till mid-September, they said.

Sasty Chandra Roy, additional deputy director (Plant Protection) of the DAE, said, "A section of farmers have opted for early Robi crops as food damaged vast areas of seedbeds and there is possibility of fresh floods in September."

"We appreciate the framers' initiative of directly putting paddy seeds on silt or muddy lands after recession of floodwater as the yield comes at a little cost. Meanwhile, many farmers prepared new seedbeds and started planting seedlings in lands," the official said.

RUPA'S SUICIDE IN BHANDARIA

## Stalkers at bay after two accused arrested

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Stalkers are hardly seen in the streets of Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur as police promptly arrested two delinquents including the main accused in the case for instigating the suicide of schoolgirl Rukaiya Rupa.

"After the tragic death of Rupa, 15, a Class X student of Bandar Government Girls' High School in Bhandaria on August 30, we rarely see any stalker active. We hope no such incident would occur again," said Sanjeeb Kumar Halder, headmaster of the school.

Main accused Tamim Khan and second accused Ryan have been taken under remand for seven days and two days respectively through the court for interrogation, said Hyatul Islam Khan, superintendent of police in Pirojpur.

"To check stalking, we arrange community policing and discussion with the teachers, guardians and students at different schools regularly. We have opened a women and children safety cell comprising female officers at the district headquarters to give support to the victims," he said.

"If the guardians are not aware about what their children do and the misuse of digital devices like mobile phone is not stopped, it is difficult for the police alone

to stop social crimes like stalking," he said.

Liakat Hossain Talukder, guardian of a student at Bandar Government Girls' High School, urged law enforcers to become more active for a stalker-free Bhandaria.

Many of the stalkers are drug addicts and they dare to become reckless due to backing by political people, several locals said, adding that they are especially worried about teenagers' involvement in stalking.

"Social degradation and teenagers' involvement with politics are the main reasons of stalking. We arrange programmes like human chains to make people aware about the social menace," said Mainul Ahsan Munna, general secretary of NGO Supro's Pirojpur district unit.

Allegedly harassed by stalker Tamim Khan who also threatened to spread a doctored obscene photo in the social media on August 30, Rupa informed her mother of the matter and took a number of sleeping pills at night.

She died under treatment at Barishal the next morning.

Rupa's father Ruhul Amin Munshi filed a case with Bhandaria Police Station accusing five named ones including Tamim and four to five unnamed youths for instigating Rupa to kill self.



Horse-drawn delivery carts, once found across the country, have become a rarity with the advent of automobiles. The photo of such a rare form of transport along with the horse and its owner, Sobhan Sheikh, was captured in Chachuri Bazar area of Narail's Kalia upazila recently.