

SNAPS

Robbers kill young man**UNB, Meherpur**

A young man was gunned down by robbers at Naodapara village in Gangni upazila on Sunday night.

Police said a gang of armed robbers swooped on the house of Mokhles and looted cash and valuables worth Tk one lakh at about 8.30pm. They shot Kafirul Islam, 25, dead just before leaving the place as he caught one of them. Kafirul, nephew of Mokhles, came to the house for watching television.

Indian milk powder seized**UNB, Chapainawabganj**

BDR members seized Indian milk powder worth Tk 22 lakh from a truck on Chapainawabganj-Sona Masjid road on Friday.

BDR sources said they searched the truck coming from Sonamasjid customs station and seized the contraband milk powder kept hidden under the sacks of rice. The truck driver was arrested.

Truck-tempo collision kills 3**UNB, Madaripur**

A speeding truck rammed into a tempo, killing three people and injuring five on the Madaripur-Faridpur road at Mustafapur on Sunday morning.

The dead were identified as tempo driver Sekandar Ali, 45, Sajal Haider, 16, and Jurani Begum, 40. The accident took place near the Palli Bidyut Samity at around 11.00am, witnesses and hospital sources said.

Husband throws acid on wife**UNB, Mymensingh**

A housewife sustained serious burn injuries in an acid attack by her husband in Khagarhar area of the town on Friday.

Witnesses said Ibrahim threw acid on his wife Aleya as she filed a dowry case against him. Ibrahim married Aleya four years back and sent her to her parents' house recently as she failed to bring Tk 40,000 as dowry from them. Aleya later filed a case against Ibrahim.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

A child collects seashells from Kuakata sea beach to sell those to the tourists. Kuakata, locally known as Sagar Kannya (daughter of sea) is a rare scenic beauty spot on the southernmost tip of Bangladesh.

Husband gets seven-year term in dowry case**UNB, Munshiganj**

A court here has sentenced five people to different terms of rigorous imprisonment in a dowry case.

Court sources said Golam Mustafa was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment while his uncle Modhu Mistri and three cousins Monir, Zaman and Hanif to five years' RI.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each. They will have to suffer six months' RI more if they fail to pay.

According to the prosecution, Golam Mustafa of Maligaon village in Sadar upazila and his relatives tortured his wife Shamima Akhter failing to realise Tk 2 lakh in dowry. Later, Shamima filed a case and police submitted chargesheet against them.

After examining records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge M Nababur Rahman handed down the verdict on Saturday.

Pavements occupied Magura residents suffer**HOSSAIN SERAI, Magura**

Passers-by could not use the pavements in Magura district town nowadays because either hawkers are occupying these for their trade or construction materials are being piled up. Even sludge from drains sometimes dotted the footpaths.

The town-dwellers blame the indifferent attitude of the authorities for such hazards they are facing.

"Magura municipality hardly takes any initiative to clean up the sidewalks or evict the vendors," said Mithun Zaman, a local resident.

When contacted, Municipality chairman Abdul Gafur assured that he would look into the matter so that town-dwellers can use the footpaths freely.

An official of the Magura municipality, however, claimed that they often conduct 'footpath clean-up drives'. But such efforts make little difference. He also said that town-dwellers have also an important role to recover the footpaths.

In commercial areas, most of the footpaths have been occupied by the shopowners and hawkers. Makeshift shops and construction materials have occupied most part of the pavements at

Mokhlesur Rahman and Sayed Ator Ali roads.

Same is the situation in residential areas. Local developers use the footpaths as a safe place for construction materials such as cement, rod and bamboo, making the movement of passers-by hazardous.

Worse, municipality workers leave sludge on the footpaths for several days together after cleaning the surface drains, causing suffering to the passers-by.

Labourer killed in bomb blast**UNB, Natore**

A labourer was killed and two others were injured in a bomb explosion at a brick kiln at Panchshisha village in Gurudaspur upazila on Sunday.

Police said three farm labourers while resting at a brick field found the abandoned bomb at about 1.00pm. The bomb suddenly went off when the labourers touched it.

The explosion left Arif Fakir, 30, dead on the spot.

Enclave residents plan movement**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur**

The inhabitants of Dahagram-Angorpota enclaves plan to launch a movement demanding that the Indian government keep the Tin Bigha corridor open round the clock for their unfettered movement.

Chairman of Dahagram Union Shamsul Huda Prodhhan told the journalists that local people will stage sit-in and hunger strike and hold rallies near the corridor as part of the agitation programmes.

They will also submit memorandums to the governments of India and Bangladesh, said Prodhhan, also the convener of Tin Bigha Sangram Committee.

At present, gates of Tin Bigha corridor connecting the enclaves with the mainland remain open during daylight hours. The BSF opens the gates six times for one hour each from 7.00am to 5.00pm daily.

But at night the gates never open, causing untold suffering to the people living in enclaves. Critical patients cannot be shifted to nearby Patgram upazila headquarters or elsewhere for treatment.

Those who go outside the enclaves have to return by 5.00pm. Anybody failing to meet the deadline have to wait at the gates till 7.00 in the morning to get access to the corridor.

Robbery in Gafargaon**UNB, Mymensingh**

Armed robbers looted valuables worth Tk one lakh from the residence of a businessman, injuring 10 inmates including the owner, at Dhamail village in Gafargaon upazila yesterday.

Police and witnesses said about 30 robbers forced the family members of Sheikh Abdus Samad to open the door at around 2.00am at gunpoint.

They also beat the family members, stabbed three of them and fired shot at the house owner when they tried to resist them.

Abdus Samad and his three family members were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Wild bear runs amok in Sherpur: 50 hurt**UNB, Sherpur**

A wild bear rampaged through frontier villages in Jhenigati upazila, injuring more than 50 people, including women and children, early Sunday morning.

Seriously injured Abdul Khaleq, 60, Nazmul, 12, and Siraj, 60, of Bharura village were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, 14 admitted to Sherpur Sadar hospital and 30 undergoing treatment in Jhenigati health complex. All of them were injured from bites or sharp claws of the animal.

Scared at the frenzied attack by the wild bear, hundreds of people came out in response to calls from village leaders through loudspeakers at mosques.

Armed with arrows and bamboo sticks, the men surrounded the six-foot long animal and beat it to death

after struggling for two hours.

Villagers said the bear entered Bharura from Indian State of Meghalaya at a time when people were going to mosque for Fajr prayers and labourers were going to farmlands.

The wild bear ran amok through Bharura, Gazarikura, Haldibata and Dharapani villages, attacking whoever was on its way.

Sangha, a teenage boy undergoing treatment in sadar hospital, told UNB that he came out of house to answer nature's call in the morning when the black beast attacked him, broke his right elbow with a big bite.

The victims, mostly poor farmers or labourers now in sadar hospital, have complained that they were going without treatment for they have no means of buying medicines from outside.

Poultry farming gaining popularity**BSS, Shariatpur**

Poultry farming has been gaining popularity in the district due to its potential economic return.

At least 500 large and medium poultry farms have been set up at 14 villages in Naria thana of the district.

Students, unemployed educated youths and professionals are getting involved in poultry farming due to high return.

Nagendra Nandi, owner of a poultry farm at Dhalir Hat village, said it costs Tk 100 to 125 to rear a hybrid chicken which lays 300 to 325 eggs a year. So, the owner can easily earn a substantial amount from it, he added.

On average, the cost of poultry feed per bird every day is one taka only, said Maina Begum, another poultry farm owner.

She was inspired by one of her neighbours who achieved tremendous success after setting up a poultry farm in the area.

Three to die for killing one in Sylhet**UNB, Sylhet**

Three people were sentenced to death and two others to life imprisonment on Sunday for killing a person at Krori rail crossing in 1996.

Judge SM Mujibur Rahman handed down the death penalty on Sajid Ali, Ana Mia and Manik Mia of Krori village in South Surma.

Aftab Mia and Jamsid Mia were sentenced to life imprisonment and fined Tk 20,000 each. They will have to suffer a year more in jail if they fail to pay.

According to the prosecution, Mozammel Ali of Novagi village was chopped to death in broad daylight on September 11, 1996 near the rail crossing at Krori village.

His adopted son Selim Ahmed filed the case accusing 21 people of murder.

One of the accused, Akaddas Ali, died during the trial and 15 others have been acquitted.

Extortionists beat up teacher in Noakhali**UNB, Noakhali**

A schoolteacher was beaten up by the extortionists at Char Jabbar of the district on Saturday.

Locals said extortionists of notorious Bashar Majhi intercepted M Ismail, assistant teacher of Charklark Primary School, on his way home and demanded Tk 50,000 toll from him.

On his refusal, they beat Ismail and left him on the road in an unconscious state. They also left a letter threatening to kill him if he fails to pay Tk 20,000 in toll within next 24 hours.

The schoolteacher was admitted to a local clinic in critical condition. A case was filed with the police.

In another incident, local people brought out a procession and set fire on Nabi bazaar, which was named after notorious pirate Nobbachora on Saturday.

Businessmen of the bazaar said the fire gutted 14 shops and destroyed valuables worth Tk 20 lakh.