

SNAPS

Bodies recovered
UNB, Gazipur
Police recovered the bodies of two unidentified young men from a ditch adjacent to Tongi Teesta Railgate here on Saturday night.
The bodies, aged about 28 and 30, with marks of injuries were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.
A case was filed with the police.

Misceants take away briefcase with money
UNB, Narayanganj
Miscreants took away Tk 3 lakh from a medicine company salesman in Chashara area here on Sunday.
Abdul Wadud Mollah, salesman of Square Pharmaceuticals, came to National Savings Bureau office at Chashara with the money in a briefcase to buy 'Shanchayapatra'. Police said the miscreants secretly took away the briefcase when he was filling up the forms at the crowded office. A case was filed with the police.

Youth with pistol arrested
UNB, Narayanganj
Police raided a house at Kachpur in Shiddhirganj upazila and arrested a youth along with a pistol and a bullet on Saturday.
The arrested was identified as Alamgir, 22.

Smuggled potato seized
UNB, Bogra
Some 90 maunds of Indian smuggled potato worth Tk three lakh were seized from Rajarbag area of Sadar upazila Saturday.
Police said acting on secret information they seized the potato, but the owner of the potato managed to flee. A case was filed.

Three held with statues
UNB, Naogaon
Two people were arrested along with three statues of touchstone from a rice mill at Nokucha in Potnitola upazila on Wednesday.

Organised gang in name of 'Sarbahara' killed 6 at Atrai

BSS, Naogaon

Rival groups' domination over control of 'Naidighee', a big pond including government khas land, extortion by organised gangs in name of 'Sarbahara' and delay in the process of trial of previous murders are the causes behind recent gruesome murder of six persons at Atrai.

People of village Naidighee where six persons including a Union Parishad (UP) member were killed recently by gangsters at dead of night narrated to BSS how the gangsters created a region of terror there by committing the murders.

An organised group of miscreants in name of 'Sarbahara' slaughtered six BNP workers including a UP member of village Naidighee on April 25, 2003.

The victims are Sukbar Ali, Abdul Jabber, Mozammel Haque, Biddut, Shahjahan Ali and Jahanir Alam Biddut, 30.

One of the accused confessed that local Awami League (AL) leader Yousuf, 50, who is absconding after the brutal killings, is the key figure in the murder.

The villagers further said to newsmen that two rival groups of the village tried to keep their control over the 'dighee' that remains out of lease for many years. The rivalry causes serious tension among local people and leads to frequent murders.

Sufia Begum, 55, mother of slain UP member Sukbar Ali said the big pond itself was the bone of conten-

tion between the two rival groups. If its two banks are opened for common use as before, peace may return, they hoped. Scores of women standing surrounding her supported it by nodding.

Local people of Atrai, Rani Nagor and Naogaon alleged that the criminals responsible for previous murders starting from 1998 till date were not punished.

Unusual delay in the trial process of earlier killings of Golam Nabi, Abdul Latif, Siddiqur Rahman Raza, Arun, Advcoate Abdus Sattar, Advocate Abdus Sobhan Chowdury, Haji Mozammel Haque and others in Atrai area might have prompted series of murders, they observed.

Political killings started in the area in 1972, they said adding that it started again in 1998.

Bringing the real killers to book can only stop further killing in this locality, they added. They also demanded fresh investigation of series of murders committed here earlier so that the real killers are duly punished.

During the past AL regime both police and the administration were influenced in carrying out investigations in various ways. As a result the real killers escaped trial and were not punished.

Local people said an organised group of miscreants in name of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party (M-L) has been engaged in killing, extortion and grabbing of khas land and wetland in Atrai area.

The miscreants have their network at Atrai of Naogaon, Singra upazila of Natore, Nandigram upazila of Bogra, Bagmara upazila of Rajshahi and Tarash upazila of Sirajganj which exist in remote Chalan Beel area, local people stated.

The miscreants take extortion from local businessmen and rich farmers often. But the victims never disclose it in fear of life. Even the witnesses of murder cases do not dare to appear before the court for deposition.

They often circulate leaflets to justify their killing or any other misdeeds they commit. It anyone fails to go by orders of the killer group to pay extortion or meet any other demand they kill him and chant slogans in name of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist party or 'Sarbahara'.

Surprisingly, sometimes the outlawed group visits the village in guise of journalists and collect information about the villagers and later blackmail them. So, the villagers are now afraid of even talking to journalists.

The 'Sarbahara' gangsters adopted an unique way to side with them by providing various help like rickshaw van to poor and use them (van pullers) as their informers.

Just to terrorise local people, the gangsters adopt brutal method of slaughtering a man in front of others even after injuring or killing him so that none dares to raise voice against them.

Police have so far arrested 21

persons allegedly involved in the recent Naidighee murders. Of them, 10 were taken in remand. Police-hunt is on to arrest others involved in the killings.

The arrested persons are Jaban Ali, Akter Ali, Khoyber Ali, Zahurul Islam, Mozahar Ali, Shafiqul Islam, Montez, Akkas Ali, Abdur Rouf, Biddut, Kablus, Chandu, Hoby, Babu, Yasin, Shaheen Chowdury, Babul, Kamal Hossain, Ashraf and Mostaque.

Bereaved family members of the victims of Naidhee murders and aggrieved villagers have demanded speedy trial of this sensational murder case.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Naogaon Monirul Islam informed journalists that adequate measures had been taken to ensure security of people of Naidighee and the adjacent areas. The law and order situation is now under control, he added.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Obaidur Rahman told newsmen that police had been out to arrest all involved with the gruesome murder. Dighirpar police camp will be transferred at Naidighee immediately as per approval of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Rajshahi range to ensure security of common people, he added. Police are now patrolling round the clock at Naidighee to protect villagers from further attack. A departmental enquiry is going on to look into why the Dighirpar police camp did not act on that night to protect villagers though it was just one kilometer away from Naidighee, the SP added.

Weaving faces extinction in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

The traditional weaving industry of Gopalganj faces extinction due to short supply of thread, colour, dye and other necessary chemicals including lack of government assistance.

Indian clothes have captured local hats and bazaars and those are being sold at a very cheap rate compared to local products.

About 50,000 weavers of five upazilas in Gopalganj are about to abandon their ancestral profession. Many of them already gave up the profession. They took up other pursuits in greater number to earn a living.

Once the weavers here had wide opportunities and adequate working capital, but now they do not have any working capital. Moreover, they do not get any profit from their products.

As a result they are compelled to borrow money from local money lenders at a high rate of interest to keep running their business.

So, the weavers here seek loans from government and non-governmental organisations on easy term to save weaving from ruination.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Two persons walk through a road in search of work at village Sonarang in Tongibari thana, Munshiganj. They earn a living by recovering golden rings, chains or other valuable items which are lost in ponds. They also sell herbal medicine among villagers and earn Tk 100 to 150 daily.

Teen abducted, raped for six days

UNB, Kurigram

Police on Wednesday rescued a teenage girl who was abducted and gang-raped by miscreants at different places in Rajarhat and Sadar upazilas for six days.

According to police, the miscreants kidnapped the orphan girl, 14, daughter of poor Mantu Miah of village Peermamud in Rajarhat upazila, from Rajarhat bazaar in broad daylight on April 17, when she was going to her uncle's house.

The victim said Apel, Alam and Suman of the bazaar forcibly took her to Shindurmoti, Dangra and a shoal area and raped her by turn.

The hoodlums later took her to the bazaar and handed her over to Apel's friends.

She was then taken to a house at the bazaar and raped by Transport Workers' Union president Ayub, Apel, Alam and Suman.

Later a young man named Ata rescued her and kept her at a house at Boidder bazaar from where police rescued her.

Outlawed party cadres active in Rajbari

BSS, Rajbari

Cadres of outlawed parties have become active again in Rajbari resulting in deterioration of law and order in the area.

Very frequently they are threatening people, raiding their houses and subjecting innocent people to harassment, raping and killing. People are even kept hostage for money.

As a result, members of many families in Sharisha, Bahadurpur, Kolimohor unions left their house for fear of the outlawed cadres.

The outlawed parties are Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), Sramjibi Mukti Andolon and other armed cadres of outlawed parties in Rajbari.

Cadres of the organisations are now trying to return to their places with the help of local influentials.

A sources close to these party activists informed that several

meetings of different outlawed parties and groups were held in remote areas of Rajbari and other adjoining districts. They formed several committees.

On April 29, two alleged Sarbahara Party activists were killed by rivals at village Bahaldanga in Pangsha upazila.

Police said an armed group of the outlawed party attacked the house of one farmer's house and chopped Akul Mondol, 45, to death. At one stage they also shot dead Yunus Mondol, 30, who came along with the group.

Police Super said, both the victims were members of the outlawed party. They had been wanted in a number of murder and abduction cases.

Leaders of opposition parties expressed their grave concern over failure of police to tackle the deteriorating law and order situation and contain the rising trend of murder in Rajbari.

No fund for graveyard, FFs' complex

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Construction works of a graveyard and a complex for freedom fighters (FFs) have become uncertain due to lack of fund.

District administration took the initiative to construct a graveyard and a complex on 12.5 acres of khas land at Shibganj upazila.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Redwan Ahmed laid the foundation stone of the complex in December 2002.