

## NEWS SNAPS

**One killed in Mawa road accident**

**UNB, Keraniganj**  
A man was killed and 10 people were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Mawa road in Abdullahpur area Tuesday.

Witnesses Shahainur, 35, died on the spot when a Dhaka-bound minibus fell into a roadside ditch. The injured were admitted to different hospitals. A case was filed.

**Three-day children's fair begins at Natore**

**UNB, Natore**  
A 3-day fair titled 'Say Yes to Children' began at Nobo Bidhan Girls' High School here Tuesday.

District Information Office under the Directorate of Mass Communication organised the fair in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) aiming at raising public awareness about child rights. Divisional Commissioner Azruddin Ahmed inaugurated the fair with Deputy Commissioner Saraduddin Ahmed in the chair. The programmes include discussion, cultural programme and art competition.

**Pirates loot five fishing trawlers in Bay**

**UNB, Barguna**  
Armed pirates swooped on fishing trawlers in the Bay and looted valuables worth Tk 10 lakh on Monday.

Witnesses said the pirates attacked five trawlers and looted the valuables leaving four fishermen injured. The injured -- Azhar Ali, 45, Kalam, 30, Soleman, 35 and Dulal, 25 -- were admitted to General Hospital.

**Stolen engine boat recovered: 6 arrested**

**BSS, Rangamati**  
Police in separate raids on Sunday recovered one stolen engine-boat and two engines from two different places in Rangamati and rounded up six persons who are allegedly members of an organised gang of boat lifter.

Kotwali and Naniarchar thana police in a joint raid recovered the boat fitted with a 16 horse power engine, belonging to Hosne-Ara Begum of Naniarchar, which was allegedly stolen from Kaptai Lake near SP Banglow in the town on Friday, police said. Police arrested five persons in this regard. They were identified as Abdul Halim, Dulal Miah, Mohammad Sabir, Abul Hussain, and Babul Kumer Das. On the confessional statement of the arrested, police later recovered two engines from the Kaptai Lake at reservecum in the town and held Kabir Ahmed, an alleged ring leader of the gang, police said. Two separate cases were lodged.

**Betel leaf farmers need bank loan**

**BSS, Madaripur**  
Betel leaf cultivation is being hampered in Madaripur due to price hike of inputs. The owners of at least 600 betel leaf farms have been facing enormous problems due to price spiral of raw materials, labour cost and shortage of running capital. About Tk 40,000 to Tk 50,000 are needed as working capital for cultivating betel leaf on one bigha of land which are beyond the ability of the betel leaf growers in the area, farmers said. The betel leaf growers urged the authorities concerned to provide them with soft term bank loan so that they can purchase necessary inputs at fair prices to continue farming of betel leaf.

**Phensidyl, Indian sarees recovered**

**BSS, Sirajganj**  
Police recovered 560 bottles of Indian phensidyl with a private car and 180 pieces of Indian sarees on the Dhaka-Bogra highway near Jamuna Bridge west in the early hours of Monday.

Police sergeant Ahsan Habib challenged the Dhaka bound private car and recovered phensidyl valued about 1 lakh taka and seized the car at Koddarmore crossing. The driver of the car managed to escape. In another drive, a police sergeant recovered 180 pieces of Indian saree valued about 1.50 lakh from a Dhaka bound bus from Hatikumrul area on the highway and arrested Jahangir Alam Anu of Iswardi. Two separate cases were lodged with Jamuna Bridge west police station and Shalonga police station.

**Novel way of extortion from trucks in Magura**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura**

A novel way of extortion is going on in Magura in the name of controlling overloading of trucks in the local 'Rural Electrification Board Office' area.

It is going on under the banner of Daxin Banga Truck Malik-Sramik Oikya Parishad (South-Bengal Trucks Owners and Workers Association).

According to the sources in the office of the Traffic Inspector and Transport Owners and Workers Association, at least 500 trucks ply everyday on the 20 km network of the national highway in Magura.

Almost all the 500 truck passing through Magura are forced to pay illegal toll. Superintendent of Police (SP) in Magura Biswas Afzal Hossain, when contacted said 'I have heard about the incident and

the issue was raised in the monthly meeting at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Magura.

During his visit to the area this correspondent saw the process of illegal extortion.

A check-post under the banner of Magura district unit of the aforementioned organisation has been set up there with colourful flags. It was set up there on August 17, locals said.

Two people are engaged to collect toll money from the vehicles while the other gives receipts. Some others gossip nearby.

Two separate receipts are given to the drivers of the vehicles ranging from Tk 10 to Tk 400 depending on load of the trucks.

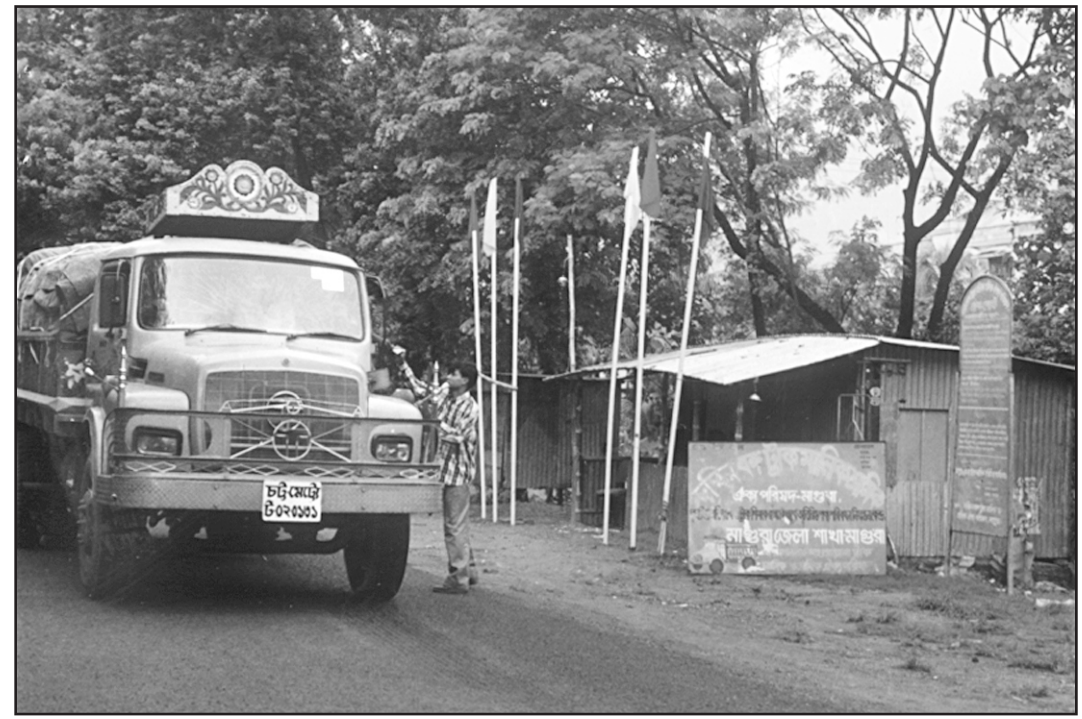
Preferring anonymity, a truck driver said 'normally they take Tk 10 as tips, but if the truck is over loaded they charge Tk 400 and we are

compelled to meet up their demand.'

While talking to this correspondent, the president of the district motor sramik union (transport workers' association) avoided the issue of extortion and said, 'we are controlling overloading of trucks according to direction of our central leaders.'

'They are involved in extortion, but we are undone said a truck owner in Magura on condition that he would not be named.

When contacted the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Magura Shafiqul Alam said, 'They are not entitled to control overloading of vehicles. Allegation has already been raised that they are involved in extortion in the name of controlling overloaded trucks. We are against all sorts of extortion. I shall look into the matter,' he assured.



A man collects illegal toll from the driver of a loaded truck in the name of checking overloading in trucks at a check post of the so-called Truck Owners and Workers Association, Magura.

PHOTO: HOSSAIN SERAJ

**Roads in Mymensingh in bad shape**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

Most of the roads in Mymensingh town are in dilapidated condition.

Vehicles including rickshaws and pedestrians can not move smoothly.

Mymensingh municipality is a first class municipality, but in reality the town dwellers are deprived of basic amenities.

Potholes and cracks have developed on Chhoto Bazaar Road, Boro Bazaar Road, Station Road, Kazi Nazrul Islam Road, Abul Mansur Ahmad Road, Akua Madrasha

Road, Kristapur Road, Maharaja Road, Swadeshi Bazaar Road, Shakhari Patti Road, J C Guha Road, Jublee Ghat Road, Natak Ghar Lane Road, Charpara Road and Brahma Palli Road.

Following heavy rainfalls this year conditions of these road have gone from bad to worse.

Stagnation of rain water for months together is another major problem.

Following development of cracks and potholes at many points of roads, two vehicles can not ply side by side at a time resulting in severe

trafficjam.

The bad shape of Boro Bazaar road is beyond description.

A big hole has developed at the main gate of Mymensingh Railway Station, but the authority does not pay heed to it.

However, the Mymensingh municipal authority recently held a meeting with the journalists and other professionals to discuss various problems including the bad shape of roads.

However, no action was taken by them after the meeting.

**Journalist Haroon murder case handed over to CID**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Case docket of Journalist Haroon murder was handed over to CID recently for investigation.

Shaikh Haroon-or-Rashid, senior crime reporter of Dainik Purbanchal, was gunned down in March this year near Mujunni Nesaria Madrassah under Khalipur thana.

A case was recorded with Khalipur thana with slain Journalist's brother-in-law Mister Morol as complainant.

Six persons including PBCP armed cadre Bobby in connection with the murder.



PHOTO: STAR

Pedestrians pass by and rickshaws ply on the Chhotobazar road in Mymensingh town which is in a pitiable condition due to incessant rainfalls. But who cares?

**Donation a criteria for recruiting teachers?**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur**

Teachers are being appointed to different posts in non-government colleges across Faridpur district on the basis of personal donation, not on merit basis, deteriorating the standard of education.

When contacted, a close source of a non-government college told this correspondent that the donation system has been introduced for recruiting teachers at different non-government colleges to create fund adding that the amount to be donated varies from Tk 50,000 to Tk one lakh per head in each subject.

The candidate who donates the highest amount gets appointment. One of the unsuccessful candidates

said that though he stood first in the written and viva-voce examination held at a non-government college he was not appointed as he could not donate the amount.

Some guardians regretted that how does a candidate get such a big amount of money to donate to get a job at the college level just after the post-graduation examination as unemployed one. One of the guardians opine that taking donations from the newly-appointed teacher is

one kind of business for the concerned governing body. The donations collected are deposited to the bank as fixed one adding that the teachers are not paid till the college gets affiliated.

The concerned authority should look into the matter, and take necessary steps to uphold the standard of education by fixing up a teacher recruitment rule on merit basis not on donation basis.

**New Moulvibazar BDRCS ad hoc committee**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar**

The new adhoc committee of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), Moulvibazar was formed by its chairman recently.

The chairman of the BDRCS issued a letter to the Moulvibazar unit appointing the new office-bearers.

This committee will work till November 30, if was mentioned in the letter.

The newly-appointed office-bearers are: Vice-Chairman Sajjadur Rahman Sajjad, Secretary-Fayzul Karim Mayun, Members-Md Yousuf Ali, Md Wali Siddique, Muazzem Hussain Matuk, Faruk Ahmed, Mohsin Miah Modhu, A taur Rahman Chowdhury, Md Gias Uddin and Md Hafiz.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Moulvibazar is the ex-officio chairman of the district unit of BDRCS. All the appointed office-bearers are leaders of the district BNP.

**Trisha murder case verdict on Sept 30**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

The verdict of sensational Trisha murder case will be announced on September 30.

Judge of Gaibandha District and Sessions Judge Court AKM Anwar Hossain will pronounce the verdict on the day.

Meanwhile, arguments of lawyers under section 342 of CrPC in the sensational Trisha murder case concluded in the District and Sessions Judge Court, Gaibandha on Tuesday.

Defence Lawyer Serajul Islam in his incomplete argument told the court that eye-witnesses Kamruzzaman Nayon and Afsal Hossain deposited false witness before the court. The accused persons Modern, Shaheen and Asha did not chase Trisha. They were not arrested from the spot. The fact was that on way back home Trisha slipped into water of a pond and drowned.

Another defence Lawyer Amjad

Hossain in his argument told the court that the accused persons should be tried in separate court considering their minor age.

Public Prosecutor (PP) pleaded for death sentence of the accused persons by hanging.

Soon after adjournment of the trial of Trisha murder case at about 1-30 pm on the day, the relatives of accused Asha swooped on the chamber of Public Prosecutor (PP) Jahangir Alam Jinnah and ransacked his office.

Anowera Begum, Mother of Asha attacked Investigating Officer (IO) Rafiqul Islam and manhandled him. Later she threw glass, cups and abused the IO in filthy language.

On being informed Police Super (SP) with a contingent of police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police arrested Anowera Begum, uncle Tariqul Islam brother Izzat Ali and sister Nasima of Asha, an accused in the case. A case was filed under Speedy Trial Act.



PHOTO: STAR

Flood water has driven away this floating pontoon of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) from Balashi Railway Marine Terminal in Gaibandha to elsewhere. It is yet to be replaced to its original place.