

## NEWS SNAPS

**Youth killed in road mishap**UNB, *Bhola*

A young man was killed in a road accident at Lalmohon upazila of the district Friday.

Police and witnesses said Khokan, 25, of village Purbo Ashuli died on the spot when a Bhola bound bus from Charfeshion upazila hit his bicycle from behind.

The workers of a nearby brick field damaged the bus and put barricade on the road protesting the accident. A case was filed.

**Two with heroin held**UNB, *Gopalganj*

Police arrested two people along with one kg heroin worth Tk one crore from near the Kaliganj bazaar in Kotalipara upazila Thursday.

The arrested identified as Shudhir Biswas, 40, and Arun Bollab, 36, hailed from Rajapur village in Uzirpur upazila of Barisal district. A case was filed.

**12 arrested in Gaibandha**UNB, *Gaibandha*

Twelve people were arrested on charge of crime and extortion during the army-led joint drive in the district in last two days till Saturday.

Four members of a family Anser Ali, Shahidul Islam, Enamul Haq and Amjad Hossain, and another Sobuj Miah were arrested from Gobindaganj upazila.

Besides Solaiman Hossain, Abdul Jalil, Akbar Ali, Sabud Miah, Ainal Haq, Dudu Miah, Angur Miah and Modhu Miah were arrested from Sadar upazila.

**Four snatchers nabbed**UNB, *Chapainawabganj*

Police arrested four snatchers from Shibganj upazila on Friday midnight.

Police nabbed Ayub, Faring, Harun and Rafiqul while they tried to snatch the motor cycle of Fazlur Rahman of village Uzirpur. The snatchers intercepted Fazlur on way home from Shibganj bazaar. A case was filed with the police under the Speedy Trial Act (STA).

## Industrialisation in northern region

**Entrepreneurs still wait for gas supply**MOZAMMEL HUQ, *Rangpur*

The prospect for setting up agro-based industries in the northern districts is bleak due to lack of gas supply.

With the commissioning of the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge, the people of this neglected region expected rapid industrialisation of their districts, but their hopes have been shattered because of lack of supply of gas.

Most of industries in this region are being run by electricity. The industries have been incurring great losses due to this phenomenon.

Many industries in the northern region face closure, alleged Mosaddeq Hossain Bablu, president Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries. He told The Daily Star categorically that without gas supply, industrialisation is quite absurd in this region. He pointed out that the cost of finished products of the electricity-run industries are almost four times high comparing to gas-run industries. He demanded immediate gas supply to save the few existing industries in the region which face closure.

**Abducted trader rescued**BSS, *Rajbari*

An abducted businessman was rescued on Tuesday by joint forces at Ghatua village in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari after a few hours of his abduction.

Joint forces sources said, a gang of criminals abducted Mithun, 35, son of Emad Ali of Saoraal of Pangsha and demanded Tk 10,000 ransom for his release.

Joint forces rescued the victim from the residence of one person named Sharafat Ali and arrested seven people. A case was filed with Pangsha thana in this connection.

Golam Mostafa, another leading industrialist and businessman of Rangpur told The Daily Star that the prospective entrepreneurs are eager to set up industries in the region, but none of them now come forward due to want of gas supply. How long will the people of this region wait for gas supply, he posed a question to The Daily Star.

Saifur Rahman, Minister for Finance and Planning paid a visit to Rangpur last year to attend the inaugural function of a branch of Bangladesh Bank. At that time the leaders of Rangpur Chamber submitted a memorandum to him demanding immediate gas supply to the region. In his address the minister called upon the traders and

businessmen to come forward to set up industries in the region grabbing the opportunity of liberal bank credit facilities of the government. Responding to the demands of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries, he assured the members of Rangpur Chamber that he would do his best for gas supply to the region. But his assurance is yet to be materialised.

Since then the Rangpur chamber moved to the higher authorities and respective ministries to extend the gas supply facilities in the northern region, but all went in vain.

Eighty per cent people of the region are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. The entire region is very resourceful with

agricultural raw materials. There are ample opportunity to set up agro-based industries. Besides, there are also scopes for establishing ginger, turmeric, hides, and milk processing projects. Moreover, there is also a good prospect for setting up mini-fertiliser, soap factories and hatcheries for pisciculture and poultry development, experts opined.

The entire economy of the region completely depends on agriculture. If agro-based industries are set up in the region then the curse of unemployment will be uprooted. On the other hand the farmers would be able to earn a lot resulting in self-sufficiency in economy of the region.



Mama Ching, chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council appreciates a painting at a week long exhibition of water colour paintings at the hilly town. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and the local zila parisad jointly organised the programme recently.

**4 including JCD leader chargesheeted in Sajjad murder case**UNB, *Gaibandha*

Four people including a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader have been chargesheeted in the sensational Sajjad murder case, filed two years before.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Police submitted the chargesheet against JCD leader Khandaker Zahidunnabi Timu, Abdul Halim, Mazharul Haq and Rafiqul Islam before the court on

Saturday.

Sajjad Hossain, secretary of district Fertiliser Traders Association and a sports organiser, was strangled by the assailants in his shop on Dibi road on June 10, 2000.

In a preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the murder was committed centering a dispute over transaction of fertiliser sale proceeds.

**Harassment by law enforcers 5 business organisations threaten to stop export-import at Benapole**UNB, *Benapole*

Five business organisations have threatened to stop export-import in Benapole Port for indefinite period in protest against what they said unnecessary harassment by law enforcing agencies despite payment of the tax on imported items.

The threat came from a meeting held at the C and F Agent Association auditorium on Thursday with its vice president Shamsur Rahman in the chair.

Among others, Sirajul Islam, Jamal Hossain, Mofizur Rahman and Emdadul Haq addressed it.

They alleged that some members of the law enforcing agency demand bribe from them by intercepting their vehicles at different areas despite having valid document of tax payment.

The speakers said although there is a provision to file a case under customs law in case of any irregularity found in imported goods, the law enforcers' file smuggling cases just to harass them.

They called upon the authority concerned to probe into the matter and take necessary steps within the next week or they would be forced to go for wildcat strike.

**Villagers-robbers clash leaves 6 hurt in Bagerhat**UNB, *Bagerhat*

Six people, including two robbers were injured in a clash between the villagers and robbers at village Tekathia in Fakirhat upazila on Friday midnight.

Villagers said armed robbers, numbering about 15, swooped on the house of Gokul Chandra of the village at midnight and looted ornaments and cash at gunpoint.

Hearing the hue and cry the villagers surrounded Gokul's house and sensing danger the robbers

opened fire on them, leaving four of them injured. But braving the firing the villagers caught two of the bandits, Lachchu and Ripon and after mass beating handed over them to police.

On the basis of confessional statement of the two robbers, police later arrested Sohel, Liton, Amal Karmakar, Khokon and Akkas from Khulna city. A shutter gun, one round of bullet and a mobile phone were recovered from their possession.