

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

## 10 houses gutted in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

At least 10 houses were gutted at Jubilee Road near Enayet Bazar Mosque in the city yesterday. Sources said, the fire broke out at a tin-shed house at Lane No-1 at about 11:00 in the morning and soon engulfed nine adjacent houses owned by one Monir Ahmed. Four fire-fighting units from the city's Nandankanan and Agrabad fire stations rushed to the spot and managed to extinguish the blaze after two-hour effort. The fire originated from gas line leakage and damaged property worth Tk 2 lakh, said the fire fighters.

## Night guard murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Criminals have murdered a night guard of Rajshahi University staff quarters. Police recovered his body from a papaya orchard behind Sayed Amir Ali Hall on Sunday night. Victim Zahrul Islam, 35, was son of Jhanu of Mirzapur area. His body was found in a dustbin. His eyes were tied with a piece of cloth and there was a rope around his neck. There were also injury marks on his throat and face, said Tofazzal Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar police station. Victim's brother Sirajul Islam said, Zahrul was missing for last three days. He used to pull rickshaw at daytime while worked as a guard at the staff quarters at night.



A huge quantity of banned phenylsydyl syrup is smuggled into the country every day. Photo shows a consignment of the Indian made sedative drug seized by Rab from a gas cylinder-laden truck in Fulbari municipal area under Dinajpur district yesterday.

## Sacrificial cattle snatched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Nine sacrificial cattle were snatched at a point of Saidpur Rangpur road on Friday night. Sources said, Ahsraf, Kalim and Atiq of Saidpur municipality bought the cattle from nearby Taraganj village market of Rangpur district on Friday night. While returning home with the cattle, a gang numbering 10-12 intercepted them near Chikli Bazaar. The snatchers beat them up and tied their hands and feet with rope and took away the cattle. The criminals came on a pick-up van, the victim said.

## JCD leader found dead

UNB, Sirajganj

A Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was found dead in bus stand area of Belkuchi upazila on Sunday morning. The dead was identified as Mokhlesur Rahman, 35, senior vice-president of Belkuchi upazila unit JCD. He was also the former VP of Belkuchi Degree College unit JCD. Family sources said, Mokhlesur was called out of his Subarnasara village house on Saturday afternoon by some unidentified people, but he did not return home. Police said, the JCD leader might have been murdered by rivals.

## Accident kills mill worker

UNB, Bagerhat

A female worker of a rice mill died when her sari was accidentally wrapped with the wheel of a machine at Badhalbazar in Kachua upazila on Saturday. The victim was identified as Selina Begum, 45, of the village. Witnesses said, Selina while working in the mill in the evening sustained serious injuries. She was rushed to a local clinic where the attending doctors declared her dead.



## Acid victims hold procession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

district took part in the procession followed by a regional conference at local Zila Parishad Auditorium.

Two acid burnt children, Ayesha, 7, from Nandigram and Shima, 6, from Shibganj upazila also joined the conference.

Light House sources said that more than 250 goldsmiths are using sulphuric and other acids in Bogra district without any license.

At least 55 out of 130 acid victims in Bogra

district took part in the procession followed by a regional conference at local Zila Parishad Auditorium.

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## EID MARKETS IN 16 NORTHERN DISTRICTS

## Cattle fattened in unscientific way pose serious health risk

EAM ASADUZZAMAN,  
Nilphamari

Most of the cattle brought for sale as sacrificial animals in the northern districts ahead of Eid-ul-Azha are fattened allegedly through harmful ways as a section of unscrupulous cattle traders ignore the scientific formula prescribed by Livestock Department.

As harmful processes to fatten cattle start several months before Eid-ul-Azha, the animals are affected with serious diseases, posing serious health hazard for consumers, experts said.

Fattening of cattle including different varieties of oxen is a common practice in the northern districts including Rangpur, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

The scientific method of fattening cattle is to feed right proportion of 2 to 2.5kg mixture of urea, molasses and straw (UMS) to the cattle daily for about six months, according to relevant officials of Nilphamari Livestock Department.

Small amounts comprising 1kg straw mixed with 700ml water, 225 grams of molasses and 30 grams of urea makes ideal UMS food for cattle fattening, district livestock office sources said, adding that the animal should undergo deworming before this.

If the cattle are too weak then they might be given limited dose of vitamin B-12 injections, they said.

But high dose steroid injections are often pushed to cattle body to make them look fat and healthy as dishonest traders



Unscientifically fattened cattle are flooding the makeshift Eid markets in northern districts. This photo was taken from a cattle market in Nilphamari yesterday.

are out to earn windfall profit. The animals are even given high dose hormonal and vitamin injections and fed harmful chemicals and high amount of urea.

"We never suggest using steroid, hormone, high dose vitamin injections or chemicals to fatten cattle," said Dr. Abul Hossain, Panchagarh district livestock officer.

After injection of steroid, the fluid is spread throughout the cattle's body to make them look fat, but the fluid is deposited in

the animal's body and different diseases caused by excess vitamin and hormone injection may even cause its death.

Visiting different cattle markets in the northern region, this correspondent found that the artificially fattened cattle lack liveliness and energy. They become too tired to proceed even after walking a short distance.

"People can be affected with different deadly diseases like kidney damage, liver failure, gastric ulcer, diabetes, pan-

creas diseases, high blood pressure and skin diseases through consumption of meat from those diseased cattle. Long time consumption of such meat might have impact even on the future generation," Nilphamari Civil Surgeon Dr. Anwarul Islam said.

"There is no specific law to prevent this unscientific practice. Moreover, there is no facility to test steroid in the cattle body in field level," Lalmonirhat District Livestock Officer Dr. Sirajul Islam said.

## RIVAL BNP Factions HOLD COUNCILS TODAY

## Sylhet tense, Magura situation eases

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A tense situation is prevailing in Sylhet city as two factions of the district unit are going to hold councils at closely located venues under Dakshin Surma upazila today.

District Convener Ilyas Ali-led faction will hold conference at Shuvachcha Community Centre in the area while Joint Convener Abul Kader Shamim group will hold the first session of the council at a truck terminal in the area and the second session at a venue near the community centre, according to our correspondent.

The district administration on Sunday gave permission to Kabir Murad faction to hold the council at Asaduzzaman auditorium in the town. But it cancelled the permission on Monday following an application submitted by advocate Mokaddes Hossain to the deputy commissioner, seeking permission to hold the council of his faction at the

same venue on the same day.

Apprehending untoward

incident, the administration also

rejected the petition of advocate Mokaddes the same day.

Talking to this correspond-

ent, Kabir Murad said

Mokaddes group is trying to

hold conference separately

violating party constitution.

"Their evil intention to

damage the image of the party

will not be fulfilled as eight of the

ten joint conveners of the dis-

trict unit have extended support to me," Murad claimed.

Our Kushtia correspondent

said: Rival factions of Kushtia

BNP held separate councils

and declared separate com-

mittees of the town unit on

Monday night.

District BNP Convener

Sohrab Uddin-led faction held

council of the unit at Kushtia

Zila Parishad hall room and

Joint Convener Minhajur

Rahman Alo organised the

council of the same unit at

Kushtia Law College.

Sohrab group made

Hafizur Rahman Helal and

Kutub Uddin Ahmed presi-

dent and secretary of the town

unit while Alo group formed

the committee of the unit with

AK Shamim Arzoo and

Mohuddin Choudhury Milon

as president and secretary.

while five others suffered

serious injury.

Babul's father Montaz Ali, 60, brother Kamal Hossain, 24, sister Rahima Begum, 20, and guard Sabaj Ali, 30, were admitted to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition.

The victim was identified as Babul Mia, 30, son of Montaz Ali of the village.

Police and locals said, about a dozen armed robbers wearing mask entered the house of Babul Mia by breaking open door at about 3:15am.

Then they held the inmates hostage at gunpoint and started looting valuables.

The robbers fired gunshots as Babul Mia as he locked in an altercation with them and tried to resist robbery.

Babul died on the spot

## Robbers kill expat, hurt 5 in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Sylhet

Robbers killed an expatriate and injured five others during a robbery at a house at Paschim Bharmi village in Bishwanath upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Babul Mia, 30, son of Montaz Ali of the village.

Police and locals said, about a dozen armed robbers wearing mask entered the house of Babul Mia by breaking open door at about 3:15am.

Then they held the inmates hostage at gunpoint and started looting valuables.

The robbers fired gunshots as Babul Mia as he locked in an altercation with them and tried to resist robbery.

Babul returned to Sylhet from Saudi Arabia about a month ago. He was set to get married today.

Robbers, villagers clash  
6 injured in MunshiganjA CORRESPONDENT,  
Munshiganj

They were taken to Iccchapur health complex but no treatment was given.

Villagers Sajib, 12, Shahjahan, 40, and Laxman Baroi, 35, were being treated there till filling of the report in the evening.

Nazmul Hasan, SI of Sirajdikan police station said, a gang of robbers went to the village to commit robbery the previous night. On information, police and locals encircled the whole area. Sensing danger, the robbers tried to flee by opening fire. It triggered a clash between the robbers and the villagers.

Papaya cultivation  
gaining popularity

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Commercial cultivation of papaya has been gaining popularity among the farmers here as its cultivation proved to be more profitable than other crops.

Some 250 hectares of land have been brought under papaya cultivation this year with an output target of 3500 tonnes.

Farmers are showing interest in papaya cultivation as it needs less fertiliser and irrigation compared to paddy.

Many farmers of Sadar, Shibganj and Bhalahat upazilas have been cultivating various high-yielding variety of papaya including Shahi, Rachi and Kohinoor commercially.

Besides, many jobless youths of the district have become self-reliant by cultivating papaya.

Faruq Ahmed of Mirzapur village of Shibganj upazila has become self-reliant in a year by cultivating papaya.

Now, he has 1100 papaya trees in his orchard and he has already earned Tk 1.56 lakh by selling 385 maunds of papaya.

He is optimistic that he would be able to earn a profit of Tk 4 lakh by this year-end.

Papaya cultivator Moazzem of Bhalahat area said he has been earning good profit by cultivating papaya on commercial basis for the last several years.

Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension Abdul Quddus said they have been motivating farmers to cultivate papaya in large scale.

He said high quality seeds are being supplied from Kalyanpur horticulture centre to boost production.

BALANCE SHEET (UN-AUDITED) AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2009			LIFE REVENUE ACCOUNT (UN-AUDITED) FOR THE 3rd QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009			CASH FLOW STATEMENT (UN-A
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