The Great Bank Robbery

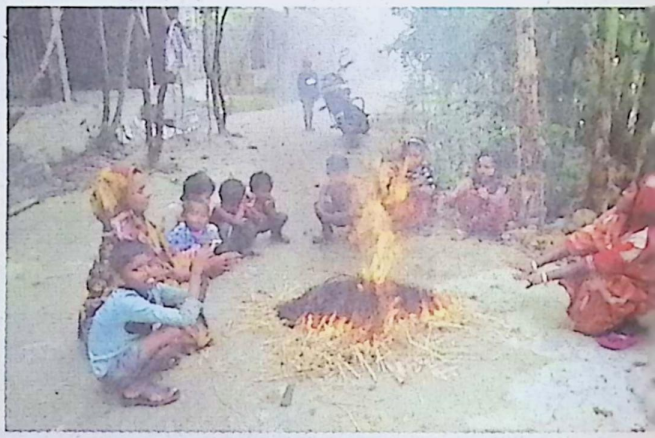


Kishoreganj. It's a scene right out of movies. Robbers made away with Tk 16.40 crore from a Sonali Bank branch in Kishoreganj. They were able to do so by digging a tunnel into the bank's vault. Interestingly, two bank officials discovered this theft on January 26 when they entered the second cell of the bank's vault to get money for transactions. The robbery, however, might have happened at any time between January 24 and 25, as the vault was checked for the last time before the robbery on last Thursday. The tunnel was dug to the vault from a nearby building only 20 yards away from the bank on Isa Khan Road at Rathkhola. A narrow alley separates the bank and the building. Police officials stationed at the bank were utterly clueless about the tunnel. Some digging tools were found inside the bank's vault. A team of Rab officials arrested Sohel, the key person behind the burglary, on Monday.



Don't Go Near the Hills

Chittagong. It's hardly surprising anymore to find people destroying the natural heritage of the country for the sake of illegal money spinning projects. At North Pahartali in Chittagong, hills are being cut to make plots for unauthorised housing projects, including Shapla Residential Area and Model Palli. Space has been made for these projects by razing more than a dozen hills and several more hills are also in the process of being flattened for the same purpose. Locals even stated that influential quarters had gradually been developing the projects by cutting away the hills at night. However, deputy chief town planner of the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), Sarwar Uddin Ahmad stated that none of the residential areas has been approved from the CDA.



Cold, Cold World

Patuakhali. There's no respite for the poor people who lost their houses during the onslaught of cyclone Mahasen in May last year. After over six months of the disaster, their houses are yet to be rebuild even though Tk 13 crore was allocated for the rebuilding of 6500 of the 10,597 damaged houses in the district. The amount had to be refunded as the local administration failed to make proper use of the allocated money within the stipulated time. People are suffering in the cold, as they don't have proper shelter or even clothes to protect them. "After getting the allocation on June 9, we sent it to the upazila authorities but they failed to spend the money as the time limit was very short. We sent letter to the ministry concerned for reallocation of money for the new fiscal year but we are yet to get any response," said Shanti Ranjon Baidya, district relief and rehabilitation officer.

87 Percentage of married women who suffer domestic violence in Bangladesh, according to a survey by BBS and UNFPA in 2011.

800 Number of people killed in Iraq in January alone as the country seems to be slipping back into an all-out conflict.

49,000 Amount of taka in crores lost in the transport, agriculture, garment and tourism sectors due to the recent political turmoil, according to Centre for Policy Dialogue.