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Hindu trader killed in Gaibandha

IS 'claims' responsibility; police yet to be sure about militant link

STAR REPORT

A Hindu trader was murdered by unknown assailants inside his shop in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila yesterday.

Like on other days, deceased Debesh Chandra Pramanik, 66, opened his shoe shop at Mahimaganj Bazar around 6:00am after offering puja, said police and family members.

Ananda Rani, 48, widow of Debesh, said she went to the shop around an hour later after taking a walk in the locality early in the morning, something she always did.

"I noticed four youths hurriedly leaving the area," she added. Sensing something was wrong, she rushed to the shop only to find her husband lying in a pool of blood.

He was stabbed in the neck and his throat was slit, said Mozammel Haque, officer-in-charge of Gobindaganj Police Station.

As Ananda cried for help, locals rushed to the spot and



Debesh Chandra

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Tidal waves during Roanu damaged a portion of this road along the Kuakata beach. Broken parts of the road, concrete cubes, and stumps of uprooted trees lay strewn across the beach. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Roanu wreaks havoc on Kuakata sea beach

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Cyclone Roanu has done so much damage to the Kuakata beach that it is difficult to even take a walk on it now.

A portion of a connecting road from zero point to the beach was washed away as tidal surges hit the beach on Saturday. Rubble of structures, roads and stumps of uprooted trees laid scattered along the beach from Lembur Char to Gangamoti.

Trees of the coconut garden, Tamarisk garden and Gangamoti reserve forest were badly damaged in the cyclone, said local Anwar Hossain Anu.

The storm also destroyed over 25 temporary shops.

Showing a spot, Nasima Begum, a small shop owner, said her shop used to be there but the cyclone washed it away.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

UK does not agree with Bangladesh govt views

Says British minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A UK Minister has said that the British government does not agree with the Bangladesh government's explanation over the recent violent attacks and brutal killings of secular writers, bloggers, intellectuals, LGBT people and members of religious minorities.

"There is a disagreement: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina blames the opposition parties for trying to destabilise the country and the victims for insulting Islam; we think the problem goes beyond that," said UK Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Hugo Swire in parliament.

During Tuesday's session in the UK parliament, several British MPs expressed their concerns over the extra-judicial

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

PAYRA DEEP-SEA PORT

Belgian firm gets dredging job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Payra Port Authority (PPA) under the shipping ministry yesterday signed the first memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Belgian company Jan De Nul for capital dredging and ongoing maintenance dredging to develop the Payra Deep-sea Port.

As a Foreign Direct Investor, Jan de Nul will carry out a major capital dredging of about 35 nautical miles on Rabnabad channel in Patuakhali's Kalapara.

Acting Chairman of PPA Capt M Saidur Rahman and Jan De Nul executive De Hert Danny signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations in Dhaka. Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan was present on the occasion as chief guest.

The estimated \$2 billion job aims to make the channel operational for deep-sea port by the end of 2018 and facilitate entry of vessels with up to 14 meters of draught and 300 meters in length.

Jan De Nul was selected out of 10 companies that submitted proposals for dredging work. A shipping ministry evaluation committee found the Belgian firm the most responsive bidder.

This is one of the 19 components of the



Payra Deep-sea Port located on the west bank of Rabnabad Channel at Lalua union in Kalapara.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4 PHOTO ON PAGE 2

Ambassador in Turkey asked to report home

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In apparent retaliation, Dhaka has called its Ambassador in Ankara Allama Siddiki for consultations, two weeks after Turkey's ambassador to Bangladesh left Dhaka to report home.

On May 12, Turkey asked its envoy Devrim Ozturk to report home for consultations in the aftermath of the execution of convicted war criminal Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami.

"We also called our ambassador in Ankara for consultations," Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali told journalists yesterday.

Responding to a query about Turkey's outburst after the execution of Nizami and subsequently asking its envoy to report home, he clarified that the Turkish ambassador was not "called back"; he rather

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Living in poverty can change genes



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Living in poverty can cause changes to people's DNA that make them more likely to become depressed, anxious and possibly take drugs, according to a ground-breaking new study.

Researchers in the United States found that teenagers from deprived backgrounds tended to undergo changes to a gene that increases the activity of a part of the brain involved in the 'fight or flight' response and panic attacks. This increased activity in the amygdala has been linked to a greater risk of depression.

They also found that a low socio-economic status was associated with low levels of serotonin, sometimes referred to as the happiness hormone.

In recent years, studies have shown that not only can genes be changed by the environment

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

G7 OUTREACH MEETING PM leaves for Japan today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Japan this morning to attend the G7 Outreach Meeting in Ise-Shima where she would discuss bilateral and international issues with several world leaders.

Hasina would play leadership role in four issues - health, women empowerment, achieving sustainable development goals and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



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PRAYER TIMING MAY 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-40	8-00
JAMAAT	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-45	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

MAMATA'S OATH 20,000 invited to Red Road ceremony

Amu to represent Hasina

A CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

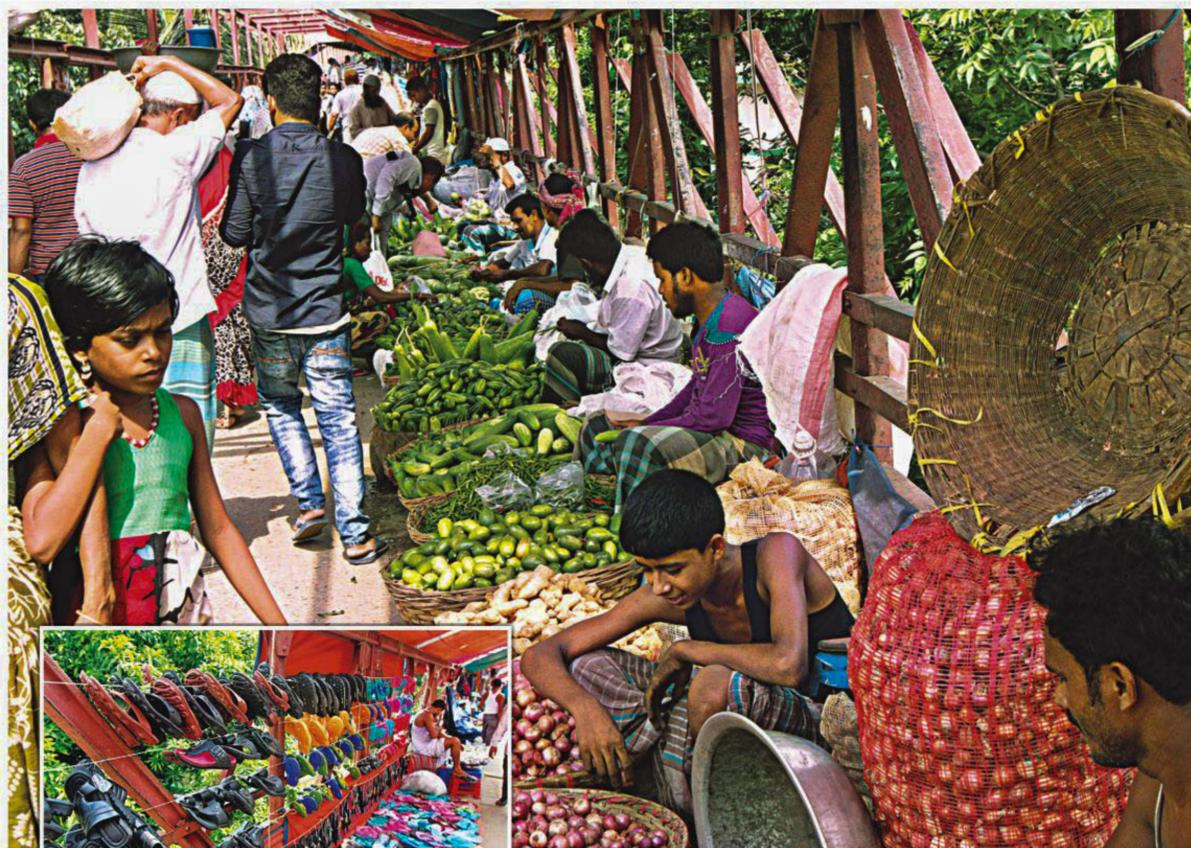
The number of invited guests in the swearing-in ceremony of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee would cross the previous record.

Trinamool Congress President Mamata Banerjee, also leader of the party that won the Vidhan Sabha elections, is scheduled to take oath at Kolkata Red Road tomorrow.

At least 20,000 invited guests would attend the function. State Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi will swear in Mamata as the chief minister, the first such event outside Raj Bhavan.

Nabanna (the secretariat of the state government) sources said high-profile dignitaries like Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bollywood superstars Amitabh Bachchan and Shahrukh Khan would attend the ceremony.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



Vegetable sellers and hawkers, inset, occupy almost the entire walkway of the footbridge at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital, leaving hardly any room for pedestrians. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Disappearance panic spreads in Pabna villages

9 went missing in a month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Panic grips two villages in Faridpur upazila of the district as nine people hailing from there went missing in less than five weeks after being picked up by people claiming to be law enforcers.

Villagers alleged that the incidents of enforced disappearances occurred over the killing of local Jubo Dal leader Saiful Islam Liton on February 3.

The issue of enforced disappearance came into the public eye on May 11 when five people, including three brothers, were picked up from Khagarbaria and Savar villages, around 50 kilometres off Pabna town.

The five are: Siblings Tikkah Sardar, 35, Ershad Miah, 30, and Saddam Hossain, 25, and Rony Pramanik of Khagarbaria village and Dulal Pramanik, of Savar village. Rony and Dulal are aged between 25 and 35.

Dulal was picked up from Ullapara upazila in Sirajganj around 1:30am while the others from their village homes around 4:00am on the day.

"Introducing themselves as Rab men, a group of armed people picked up my three sons from our house. Some 10 to 12 men from Khagarbaria and Savar accompanied the armed people," Abdul Karim, father of the three brothers, told The Daily Star.

When the family members went to Pabna Rab camp the following day, Rab officials denied picking up the brothers.

The five are supporters of the ruling Awami League, claimed Khalilur Rahman, president of Faridpur upazila AL. Earlier, three people hailing from the upazila went missing

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5