

Indian miscreants on rampage: one killed

An Indian national was killed and several others, including three Bangladeshis, were injured in a clash at a frontier village of Chapainawabganj on Saturday, a BDR press release said in Dhaka on Sunday, reports UNB.

The press release stated that a group of miscreants numbering 120 to 125 from across the border suddenly attacked some shepherd boys in Shilamara of the north-western district and tried to snatch away their cattlehead by force.

The miscreants who were armed with lethal weapons, started beating off the young boys mercilessly.

The members of BDR from the nearby frontier post rushed to the spot upon hearing the hue and cry of the shepherd boys.

Training course on agricultural reporting

A 9-day training course on agricultural reporting will begin on February 12 at the Press Institute of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Journalists from daily newspapers of Dhaka and the districts will participate.

The course contents include agricultural development, development of fisheries and livestock, agricultural development agencies, rural development, food production, agricultural communication, definition and sources of news, structure of news specialised rural reporting, news writing exercises.

Economists, agronomists and senior journalists will conduct different sessions of the course, says a press release.

A similar course on agricultural reporting was held at PIB in June last.

The BDR personnel were also attacked by the intruding miscreants who opened fire and injured three Bangladeshi persons.

To disperse the miscreants and save themselves the riflemen opened fire resulting in death of the intruder on the spot and injuring several others.

The miscreants later managed to escape. The body was handed over to Indian border security forces.

A flag meeting between the commander of 31 rifles battalion and the concerned Indian authorities was held in this connection the press release added.

2 arrested with handbombs at Demra

By Staff Correspondent

Demra police arrested two persons on Sunday and recovered two handbombs, one dagger, one chopper and one knife from them.

Manjurul Alam was arrested at from Giti Sangit Cinema hall area in the morning. He was trying to rob passengers in early morning with daggers and knives. Another person Alamgir Hossain was arrested with two bombs when he was trying to block rickshaws.

Illegal arms to impede fair polls: Kamal

Awami League President member Dr. Kamal Hossain said that the main impediments on the way of fair and impartial elections were illegal arms, black money no terrorist elements, reports BSS.

Addressing an election meeting at Section Number 14 of Mirpur Friday, he urged the government to be more active in the recovery of illegal arms, resisting the terrorists elements and stopping other evil practices. He also demanded the immediate trial of ex-President Ershad.

DU admission test

By Staff Correspondent

The Admission Test of M Sc first part in Psychology Department for the session 1989-90 in Dhaka University will be held at Arts Faculty today (Monday) and the Admission Test of Islamic Studies Department will be held tomorrow (Tuesday).

Girls' Guide's new commissioner

Begum Zeba Rashid Chowdhury has been elected National Commissioner of Bangladesh Girls' Guide Association, reports BSS.

The new executive committee of the association was chosen during the three-day national council conference, according to a press release.

Rohana Banu and Khorshed Begum were elected Deputy National Commissioners while Shaukat Ara Huq-Ranger Commissioner, Abeda Fahim-Finance Commissioner, Amatul Huq Khadija Begum-Publication Commissioner and Mahbuba Khan Girls' Extension Commissioner.

Others newly elected commissioners are Mobina Khatun, Siddiqua Tawfik, Hosh-e-Ara Helen, Suraiya, Zebunnessa, Mrs. Setara Musa, and Regional Commissioners are Rashida Begum and Zohra Begum, Roushan Ara Begum, Nirupa Dewan and Rehana Khanam are members.

Poll candidates, KMP chief meet

KHULNA, Feb 10: A meeting was held here today between the candidates of Khulna 2, 3 and 4 constituencies, their representatives and Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner to discuss the forthcoming elections and the code of conduct, reports BSS.

The Police Commissioner Mr. Abdul Hakim Khan, said the caretaker government was determined to hold free and fair parliamentary elections for which the administration, including the Khulna Metropolitan Police, was working selflessly and with dedication.

He said orders have already been issued to take effective measures against any criminal activities, that may hamper the holding of free and fair election.

Attempt on NDP leader denounced

By Staff Correspondent

National Labour Federation denounced the alleged assassination bid to the Secretary General of National Democratic Party (NDP).

To protest the bid the Federation held a meeting in its central office on Friday with MP candidate and executive president Zahurul Huq in the chair.

Secretary of the Federation Sayed Delwar Hossain in the meeting said that the government of Acting President failed to recover illegal arms



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah addressing a discussion meeting at the National Press Club auditorium on Sunday on role of news papers in democratic transition. Also seen are (from left) Barrister Moinul Hossain, Justice Ruhul Islam, Chairman, Press Council and Sanaulah Noori, a veteran journalist. The meeting was organised by Press Council. —Star Photo.

Dateline Khulna

New dimension in fight on BNP-AL-Jamaat

From Syed Isa

KHULNA, Feb 10: With only 16 days left for the parliamentary polls election campaign by different political parties getting momentum in all the six constituencies of the district despite snatching of almost everybody's attention by the Gulf war news.

Multi-coloured posters and banners have given new dimension to the green villages beside the colourful towns. A wall will hardly be found without drawings of polls symbols like boat, sheaf of paddy, balance, plough or a lock with fervent appeal to cast votes in favour of the respective candidates.

A section of the public are, however, scared of possible untoward incidents on the election dates while many of them are hopeful of true democratic atmosphere.

Muniruddin Biswas, a small shop-keeper at Tala Bazar expressed his satisfaction over the government's neutrality in holding the election which according to him was conspicuously absent during the past regimes.

The scenario were almost identical on village-roads of Terokhada, Dumuria, Batiaghata and Paikgachha. Young boys were publicising by microphones in favour of their candidates. The publicist gets taka 50 only while the rickshaw-puller takes Taka 100 per

day. Electioneering has become added attraction for villagers. People assemble and exchange their views both on Gulf and election issues with equal interest.

Besides political activists come in the houses of the public in groups and try to confirm votes in favour of their candidates.

In Khulna district, BNP, Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami are three major political parties contesting the polls. CPB candidates are contesting in two seats. Five-party Alliance has three candidates at Dumuria, Terokhada and Khulna city.

Three independent candidates, including a local daily's Editor, are also in the fighting. Jatiya Party candidates are fighting for all the seats of the districts.

Local BNP circle recently got a moral boostup following their leader Begum Khaleda Zia's tour to the southwestern districts including Khulna. BNP seems to have intensified their election propaganda following Khaleda Zia's tour. Meanwhile the party has made substantial progress in at least two of the constituencies where the situation was almost hopeless for the party contenders, as the political observers view.

Two Jamaat candidates —

Manzana A.K.M. Yusuf and Alhaj Md. Shamsur Rahman who are being considered as two strong contenders for Khulna Two and Khulna Three constituencies have been shaken substantially in the face of BNP candidates. However, Jamaat Chief Abbas Ali Khan's recent visit to Khulna has been able to mend a little of the damage. But local political observers are of the opinion that the damage already done to this party by Begums Zia's harsh comments against them in at least five election rallies in and around Khulna city in the last week may not be repaired fully by soft-spoken Abbas Ali Khan.

Local Awami League has also been hit tremendously by Khaleda Zia's visit to this area, political circle opined. Awami League processions are trying to carry public attention by carrying big portraits of their late leader SK. Mujib and their party chief SK. Hasina, along with their traditional election symbol of boat.

Awami League has drawn another curious strategy of chanting 'Allah-ho-Akbar' and 'La-Ilaha-Ilal-Lahu' slogans simultaneously with 'Joi-Bangla' and 'Joi-Bangabandhu' to attract the Muslim voters of whom a large portion is West Bengal settlers and traditionally anti-Awami League.

'Pressure groups threatening press'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion said a free and responsible press is a must for smooth transition to democracy.

They also stressed growth of institutions for the survival of democratic system.

The discussion meeting was organised by Bangladesh Press Council on newspaper's role in transition to democracy, with was held at the National Press Club on Sunday.

Speaking as the chief guest Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Maniruzzaman Miah said for establishing real democracy, people have to be helped in choosing the right persons in the polls. He said it was the newspaper which can play a vital role in helping the people by projecting and analysing the programmes of different parties.

He said a particular newspaper could commit mistake but as a class the newspaper community could not commit mistake.

The Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor opined that rigid control of the newspapers was unnecessary as self-censorship would emerge out of responsibility.

Barrister Mainul Hossain, President of the Sangbadpatri Parishad said democratic system of governance was inevitable for the existence and growth of independent newspapers. He said after the fall of autocratic regime it was the responsibility of the press to form a healthy consensus. President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists

Rezauddin Ahmed said the press could not play its due role as the autocratic mentality was not gone with the fall of Ershad. He said there are pressure groups who are threatening free functioning of the press. Criticising Special Powers Act the BPUJ President said it is in existence like a tranquillised tiger which could become as harmful as before. President of the Editors Council Sanaulah Noori, former Chairman of the Dhaka University Journalism Department Tawhidul Anwar, eminent lawyer Gazi Shamsur Rahman, Chairman of the Dhaka Bangladesh and Times Trust Council Obaidul Huq, and President of National Lawyers Council Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed spoke at the discussion which was presided over by Justice Ruhul Islam, President of the Press Council.

French Ambassador calls on Iajuddin

Ambassador of France in Bangladesh Serge Degallais called on Presidential Adviser for Cultural Affairs and Food, Iajuddin Ahmed in Dhaka on Sunday morning, reports UNB.

The Ambassador stayed with the Adviser for sometime and discussed matters of mutual interest specially with regard to exchange of cultural programmes in future for strengthening the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries.

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Dateline Chittagong

Steps to control polls expenses sought

CHITTAGONG, Feb 10: Jatiya Party candidate for Chittagong-10 constituency Mr. Harun-ar-Rashid Khan Saturday complained that some candidates were spending beyond government fixed Taka three lakh in electioneering, a party press release said, reports BSS.

He called upon the concerned authority to take necessary steps to control election expenses of candidates as prescribed earlier.

Addressing a party meeting at Gomdandi under Boakhali Upazila, he pointed out that some candidates were erecting scores of election camps, making costly party symbols and running dozens of vehicles involving huge expenditures. He urged the people to find out sources of lavish expenditure in electioneering by such candidates.

Presided over by ex-chairman of UP, Alhaj Shamsul Alam, the meeting was addressed by Nur Nabi member, Mir Ahmad and Nur Mahamud.

A separate press release of the party said that a public meeting was held at Baguevan-Raozan here Saturday in support of Mr. Ziauddin Ahmad Bablu a candidate for Chittagong-6 constituency.

Ctg chamber to set up training cell

CHITTAGONG, Feb 10: Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCC & I) will set up a research, documentation and training cell here soon in cooperation with German Economic Cooperation Ministry and German Federation of Small Business and Crafts, Technonent Asia, a press release said on Sunday, reports BSS.

The CCC&I and the Technonent-Asia signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect in Dhaka on Friday. The cell involving an expenditure of over Taka 12 lakh will offer facilities for training and advisory services to private small and medium sized industries.

BSP demands neutral Wage Board

The Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) has demanded the setting up of a neutral Wage Board for the employees of the newspaper industries, reports BSS.

In a statement, the Parishad said the Wage Board set up by the previous Ershad Government was boycotted by the BSP since dearness allowances and other measures were taken unilaterally causing much stress on the industry.

The statement said the Wage Board made recommendations increasing the salaries and allowances ranging from 90 to 100 per cent and other burdens had also been imposed on the management. The Parishad said all these including the hike in the prices of newsprint made the newspaper industry miserable.

The executive committee of the BSP met Sunday with Mr. Moinul Hossain in the chair and agreed to give BSP's position on the Wage Board, the statement said.

Stating that many newspapers do not have the capacity to pay salaries, the statement said the policy of the Ershad Government was to keep the entire industry in financial crisis and only maintaining some pro-Government newspapers functioning.



Mohammad Mustafa Ali, National Ameer, delivering his presidential speech on the 67th annual conference (Salana Galsa) of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat in the concluding session on Sunday.

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