

District roundup

SHERPUR

BCL sweeps in college union polls

Nov 22: Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) swept in the students union election of Srebdri Government College on Thursday, reports UNB. Golam Maruf and Liakat Hossain were elected VP and GS respectively. Chhatra League, Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal, Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and Islami Chhatra Shibir took part in the election.

RAJSHAHI

Seminar on campus violence held

Nov 22: Violence of different kinds prevail in the country, the collection of which will take a shape of dangerous battle said M Shamsur Rahman in the annual seminar, reports UNB.

The Sangbad Pathak Forum of the Rajshahi University held a seminar on campus violence on November 15. M Shamsur Rahman, Professor of Political Science read out the keynote paper on "Terrorism and democracy in Bangladesh". He said democracy and terrorism cannot go together adding that terrorism must be rooted out with an iron hand to give democracy an institutional shape.

Dr Anisur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University was the chief guest who said all sections of the people must contribute towards creating an atmosphere congenial to the pursuit of education in the campus. The seminar was presided over by Arif Hasnat while Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Azharuddin and President of Bangladeshes Federation of Journalists Riazuddin Ahmed attended as special guests.

COMILLA

Rival groups clash leaves one dead

Nov 22: One person was killed by gun shot and 15 others were injured, six of them seriously, in a clash at Makimpur village of Brahmanpara thana Sunday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Dulal (30) of Mukimpur village. He died on the spot.

The clash ensued over the possession of a beel between two rival groups. The seriously injured persons were admitted to the Kasba Health Complex.

Police arrested one person on suspicion as nobody would identify the fighting elements of any group.

DINAJPUR

Police recover kidnapped girl

Nov 22: Police have recovered a teen aged girl kidnapped from Nowabganj thana three months ago, reports UNB.

Rebeka (14), daughter of Abdul Siddique of Akhira village who said to have been missing from her house since August.

According to the complaint lodged with the police Rebeka was kidnapped by a young man of the same village.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Anti-corruption Bureau fails to institute 272 cases

Nov 22: The Anti-corruption Bureau has failed to institute 272 cases in the 16 northern districts during last two and half years, for want of approval of the higher authorities, reports UNB.

Officials said legal proceedings needed to be initiated for corruption, misappropriation of public money, defalcation and irregularities in executing food-for-works programme.

But charge-sheet could not be framed against influential persons including some government officials without the approval of the higher authorities which are required under the rules.

Meanwhile, some non-government employees put under arrest by police were languishing in the jails without trial.

The bureau of anti-corruption could not manage the approval even after several reminders, they said.

MADARIPUR

Son stabs father, dies

Nov 22: A cruel son stabbed his father to death at Bengamara village in Kalkini thana of the district, family sources said Saturday, reports UNB.

According to the sources, Emdadul Bepari following a family feud attacked his father Rajab Ali Bepari Monday and stabbed him mercilessly.

Later, the ill fated father Rajab Ali was taken to Kalkini hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection and Emdadul remained absconding since the incident.

LALMONIRHAT

9 passengers hurt in road mishap

Nov 22: At least nine passengers were injured, three seriously, when a Dhaka-bound night coach from Burimari Friday fell into a roadside ditch at Burir Bazar in Aditmari thana, about 20 kilometres from here, reports UNB.

The 52-seater bus with 60 passengers on board met the accident at 3 pm while it tried to overtake a truck and fell into a shallow ditch, passengers said.

Seriously injured Jaheda Begum (30), of village Barakhata in Hatibandha thana, and Omar Mastan (50) and Shahidul Islam (28) of Tushbandar in Kaliganj thana of Lalmonirhat district were admitted at Aditmari thana health complex in critical condition. Other injured were released after giving first aid.

Driver, conductor and helper of the vehicle fled the scene after the accident, passengers said.

Aditmari thana police were informed of the accident and they were on way to the spot.

NETRAKONA

One commits suicide by taking poison

Nov 22: One Razab Ali (60) of village Sathbaruka under Kendua thana of the district committed suicide by taking poison on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Family sources said that Razab Ali had been suffering from prolonged ailments.

An UD case has been registered with Kendua police in this connection.

Another message adds: Mohanganj thana police recovered a country made pipe gun from a graveyard at the village Borantar, police said here Thursday.

Acting on secret information, a contingent of police led by Helaluddin dug out the gun from at the graveyard on November 12. The owner of the pipe gun could not be traced.

PATUAKHALI

Muslim Institute literary forum formed

Nov 22: The Muslim Institute literary forum has been formed at Bhoia, reports UNB.

A meeting of litterateurs held recently constituted a 27-member executive committee. The meeting was presided over by poet Alhaj Md Mokhelesur Rahman Darbesh, while Prof Katsar Ahmed and Alhaj Md Showkat Hossain were among others who attended the meeting.

Shah Matin (Tpu) was elected president and Amitava Roy Apu and Showkat Anwar Mizan were made vice presidents of the forum.

CHITTAGONG

Contraband cigarettes worth Tk 1 cr seized

Nov 22: A special squad of the port police seized 250 master cartons of contraband cigarettes worth Taka one crore from a trawler at the outlet of Karnaphuli river here last night, reports BSS.

According to a police press release, the squad on suspicion challenged a trawler loaded with smuggled goods in the sea, but sensing the police appearance the trawler tried to flee away.

After one hour chase by the officers the smugglers at one stage left the trawlers jumping into the sea.

The squad seized the trawler named MV Mahjuddin and recovered the contraband cigarettes from it, the press release added.



BOGRA: A man is preparing a date tree for extracting juice from which tasty khejurer gur is made. With the advent of winter, the gur begins to appear at the markets. — Star photo

Large-scale cutting of date trees hits output Fresh 'khejurer gur' now at markets as winter begins

JESSORE, Nov 22: The quantity of gur from the date juice (Khejurer gur) decreasing in the district due to felling of trees at an alarming rate for the last few years. One of the 21 thanas, there are large number of date trees in 13 thanas of the district. It was abundant in Chowgacha, Jhikargacha, Jessore sadar, Sharsha, Monirampur, Obhainagar, Keshobpur, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Moheshpur, Jhenidah and Hariakunadu where juice was available in plenty.

According to an unofficial survey, there were more than 4.25 lakh date trees in the district in 1980. Gur production was 6250 maund at an average rate of ten seers per tree. The earning from the sale of gur reached at about Taka six crore during the last season, it is reported. Kotchandpur, Khalishpur, Moheshpur, Chowgacha, Sharsha, Jhikargacha, Kaliganj, Jhenidah and Obhainagar were famous. Chowgacha, Khalshi, Chhatinjala, Khalishpur, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Monirampur were noted for gur marketing. People from different places of the country crowded there to purchase gur. The demand of gur was wide-spread and it was a profitable item. Consignments of 'gur' used to sent to many bazars of the country from these places.

Products of Kaliganj, Moheshpur, Chowgacha, Sharsha and Jhikargacha had great demand for speciality in crystal and colour. There are still some families in these areas know for their skill in this profession. A family at Rajapur under Sukpukhuri union of Chowgacha in Jessore deserves to be mentioned in this respect. More precisely, date-cake (patali) is a legendary brand. It is like a hard nut outside but meets with supreme palatable fragrance of cracked in month. This is the speciality that attracts customers without rank and file.

Jessore date gur is noted for its majestic excellence in flavour. It is unique in sweetness and satisfaction. According to a source, 'gur' not only used to meet the demand of the country as substitute of sugar but also provides job opportunities to a large number of poor day-labourers. It played a dominant role on national economy. According to an unconfirmed source,

number of professional date-tree cutter was about two lakh in greater Jessore. Their families lived upon this income which was comparatively quite handsome and comfortable.

The season of 'gur' start from November with the approach of winter. It ends in February with the departure of winter.

Interestingly, the branches that were obtained from trimming the trees, were used as fuel and it helps a lot to meet requirement.

There is no denying the fact that number of date-trees in greater Jessore is on the decrease. It is now less than two lakh. What is more surprising is that despite efforts to plant trees it has no revigitation. Those who were professional cutter and gur producer, are now out of employment or many of them have taken up some other profession in search of livelihood.

Indiscriminate felling of date-trees have deepened the crisis and made the profession to wane.

Taking full advantage of rural peoples financial need and ignorance, so-called owners of brick-fields are purchasing it at cheaper rate and destroying the date trees.

Primary hospitals where acute scarcity of medicines is a permanent problem.

Acute shortage of necessary staff and medicines in the veterinary hospitals is a regular affair, especially in the rural areas.

Scarcity of Fodder in different areas is also prevailing for different reasons. As a result, the poor and middle class farmers are selling out their cows and bullock at cheaper rates.

Taking advantage of the situation, a section of cow traders are purchasing hundreds of cows from the farmers and these are being supplied to different places and those are being slaughtered daily for consumption as meat, it is learnt.

If the trend continues, cultivation of crops would be hampered greatly, it is apprehended.



NATORE: The river Narad is now covered with hyacinth which has become the mosquito breeding centre in the town. — Star photo

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 22: Traffic congestion and violation of traffic rules are creating serious problems at the district headquarters.

The trucks and buses moving towards Dhaka, Khulna, Jessore, Kaliganj from Satkhira pass through the middle of the town at a high speed and threatens the movement of pedestrians including college and school going students.

Two commit suicide

One Shawkat Ali (13), son of Magreb Ali of Shalley and Mamata Sarkar (13), daughter of Kanafath of village Gopinathpur both under Satkhira Sadar thana committed suicide by taking insecticides recently.

It is learnt that both of them committed suicide over family troubles.

They died on the spot. The bodies were sent to Satkhira hospital for autopsy.

House rent increases

The house rent at the district town including seven thanas has increased abnormally.

It is learnt that due to abnormal rise in the prices of construction materials, the land owners were reluctant to construct new houses.

On the otherhand, population boom has further aggravated the situation. No having plan was taken up by the government in the district so far. As a result, the law paid employees of government, autonomous bodies, private organisations and low paid income groups have been suffering for the acute housing problems.

At present, a kutcha house is being rented at Taka 500 to Taka 650 and a building house at Taka 1200 to Taka 2000 instead of Taka 400 to Taka 500 and Taka 800 to Taka 1500.

It is learnt that the same problem has been prevailing in Kaliganj, Kalaroa, Debhatta, Assasuni, Tala and Shyamnagar thanas.

One gets life-term for killing father

Sudhendu Kumar Biswas, Additional Sessions Judge, Satkhira convicted one Samsuddin Sarder of village Debnagar under Sadar thana and sentenced him to life-term imprisonment and fined Taka 10,000 in default to suffer one year more RI on charge of killing his father recently.

According to court sources, the victim Nesarat Sardar, father of the accused Samsuddin Sardar went to harvest paddy which transplanted by his son Samsuddin on October 5, 1989. The accused tried his father to stop the harvesting but failed. As a result, being angry, he hit his father with sharp knife and died on the spot.

A case was filed with Satkhira police station in this regard. After the investigation, police submitted chargesheet against him. The learned judge tried the case and after examining the witnesses, he found him guilty and awarded the above punishment.

Pedestrians face problems

In absence of footpaths on most roads of the town, the pedestrians have been facing inconveniences to walk on the road.

Town residents complained that serious problems are often created in the movement of vehicles and rickshaws in absence of footpath in court road of the town.

According to the rickshaw-pullers, court road is the main and important road of the town which remain always busy with people and vehicular movement for want of footpath.

The pedestrians are the worst sufferers who do not find any path to pass the road. It is widely felt that the road should be widened immediately with footpath for the smooth movement of the vehicles and also the people.

5 get Manorama Mashima Chhatri Stipend

BARISAL, Nov 22: Five students who secured highest marks in the SSC examinations of 1992 from different high schools of Barisal district were recently awarded Manorama Mashima Chhatri Stipend, reports BSS.

Manorama Mashima Smriti Sangsad introduced the stipend for the girl, students of the district last year.

Aysa Khanam, General Secretary, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, was present as chief guest on the occasion.

Sasanka Mukharjee and Geeta Mukharjee from India were also present as special guests.

Road mishaps claim 9 lives in 2 districts

MADARIPUR, Nov 22: A school boy was ran over by a speeding truck in Rajoir thana last week, reports UNB. Witnesses said Rafiq (10) was hit by the speeding truck from behind near Samadder bridge while he was playing there. He died on the spot. The driver managed to flee along with the truck. A case was filed with the local police.

Another report says: One person was killed under the wheels of a speeding night coach at Babna village in Rajoir thana on Faridpur-Barisal highway, police said here Saturday.

The victim was identified as Chhunu Mia (20) of Durgabodi village in Rajoir thana. The incident occurred while Chhunu Mia was crossing the road Tuesday. His body was sent to morgue for post-mortem. A case has been filed with the local thana.

UNB report from Rangpur says: Three passengers were killed when they fell from the roof of a running minibus here on Rangpur-Dinajpur highway near Taraganj Post Office Thursday, police said.

One of the victims was identified as Azizul Islam (30) while the identity of others were not known immediately.

The passengers were travelling on the roof of Dinajpur-bound minibus (Rangpur Ja-4435) and met the tragic end of their lives when the vehicle dashed with a roadside tree, police added.

Local people held the driver and the minibus soon after the accident and handed over to police. A case has been filed with the local police in this connection.

UNB report from Gaibandha says: Two passengers were killed and 33 others injured, 15 seriously, when a minibus collided with a trolley and both the vehicles were hit by another microbus here on Dhaka-Rangpur highway at Taltala in Gobindaganj thana on Friday.

According to police, Bogra bound minibus (No Ba-6027) collided with a sugarcane carrier trolley and Naogaon bound speeding microbus (No 02-009) dashed both the vehicles killing Mofazzal Hossain (55) on the spot.

Another passenger succumbed at Gaibandha Modernised Hospital. His identity could not be ascertained immediately.

All the seriously injured passengers were admitted to Gobindaganj, Gaibandha and Rangpur Medical College Hospitals.

Harvesting of Aman crop going on in dist

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Nov 22: Harvesting of aman crops in different chars of the district has been started from the very beginning of November.

Although pest attack and drought threatened the production, the harvest is better.

The poor farmers are afraid of lathials, terrorists and a class of land owners who are seeking opportunity to cut the crops forcibly depriving the helpless and poor farmers. This sort of looting of crops is a regular affair in every season.

The farmers of different chars situated in Bhurungamari, Nayaswari, Ulipur, Chilmari, Rowmari, Rajibpur and Kurigram thanas

have been threatened by the miscreants, terrorist and lathials and quarrel frequently occurs in the char areas.

The farmers are afraid of wither they will be able to harvest the crops. As a result, their hard labour and investment will go in vain.

The district administration has been urged repeatedly to take proper measures to maintain law and order to help the poor farmers to harvest their crops but the vain.

The government have been requested to take strong measures so that peace in char area is prevailed and poor farmers can harvest their crops easily.



NARAYANGANJ: The representatives of Central 'Khelaghar Ashar' who took part 'Orlonak Camp-92' in Russia seen with Hasnath Jahan Lina, central leader, 'Khelaghar Ashar' at local Ali Ahmed auditorium recently. — Star Photo

People urged to take part in uplift work

RANGPUR, Nov 22: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed on Wednesday said petty personal and party interests should not be the goal of politics and called on people to participate in development activities now going on across the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing a workers rally at the local circuit house where about two hundred leaders and workers of Awami League, Ganatantri Party and Jatiya Party formally joined the BNP.

Prof Rezaul Karim, MP, Begum Rebaka Mahmud, MP, BNP Divisional Organising Secretary Rezaul Haque Rana and BNP central committee member Rahimuddin Varasha also spoke on the occasion.

Oli Ahmed said Shaheed President Zia had for the first time initiated the politics of development and solidarity in the country. "It is now our turn to carry the positive politics forward under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia."

He called upon all political workers and leaders who joined BNP to contribute significantly in establishing a peaceful society free from terrorism.

Earlier, addressing another meeting at the Rangpur Circuit House, the Communications

Minister asked the district level officials to bridge the gap between the people and the government so that people do not suffer from any sense of isolation.

The BNP does not mix up politics with administration, he said adding "we are all party to the success and failure of a democratic government".

Father held on charge of killing minor son

JESSORE, Nov 22: Police nabbed Anwar Ali of the town Friday on charge of killing his nine months old son Meraj, reports UNB.

According to the police, on Thursday midnight, the illated baby while crying loudly the father got irritated and tried to stop him but failed. At one stage he became furious and threw the baby on the floor causing his instantaneous death.

Later, mother of the baby filed a case with Kotwali-thana and police arrested the accused on the following day.

Another report adds: A meeting of the local journalists was held here at Deputy Commissioner's office on Friday.