

Goods worth Tk 50,000 looted

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Jan 21: A daring dacoity committed at village Kudbarchar of Majidbaria union under Mirzagonj thana of the district in which the dacoits looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Taka 50 thousand. The house owner Wares Ali Khan was badly wounded by the attack of the dacoits and his daughter, Reba, 22, died at the Amali hospital following her unconsciousness during the dacoity.

It is reported that, a gang of dacoits numbering about 10 to 12 armed with lethal weapons at midnight broke into the house of Wares Ali Khan, beat the inmates and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Taka 50 thousand.

Malaria spreads in epidemic form in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Jan 21: Malaria has broken out in epidemic form at village Panchgachi in Kurigram sadar thana.

As many as 200 people have been found affected by the malarial parasite called *Plasmodium Vivax*, when blood test was conducted by Health Department, among only 100 people of the village.

It is learnt from a reliable source that there are more than 2000 people in the village, who are likely to suffer from the disease.

It is assumed that in the adjoining areas Malaria may spread soon if mass-spraying of DDT is not conducted.

When contacted, the Civil Surgeon Kurigram informed this correspondent that medical team has been working there to control the spread of the disease. But he did not say anything statistically and definitely as to what pragmatic steps had been taken, and how far the said team had succeeded to control the outbreak of the disease.

Housewife commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Jan 21: A housewife, Kurshina Begum, 25, committed suicide at village Kishmat Moukaron of Lankathi union under Patuakhali sadar thana recently.

It is reported that, Kurshina Begum, wife of one Abu Zafar Akon of the same village killed herself by taking poison. She was rushed to the Patuakhali sadar hospital but she died there soon after her admission to the hospital.

4 Shibir activists get life-term for killing JCD member

RANGPUR, Jan 21: Four activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir were sentenced to life imprisonment Sunday on charges of killing a Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist, court sources said, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, Aminul Islam, an activist of the JCD was stabbed grievously while returning home by the rival group following a dispute over occupying a front bench seat in the classroom of the Kaunia college in Kaunia thana.

He was rushed to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital where he succumbed on November 24, 1992.

The convicts are Abdul Malek, Babar Ali, Abdul Mannan and Amzad Hossain. The court acquitted 11 others.

Sarbahara party leader arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 21: Police arrested a wanted leader of the outlawed Purbia Banglar Sarbahara Party from his village Juncie here yesterday morning, reports UNB.

The Sarbahara leader was identified as Abu Saeed, 40, of village Juncie in the Sadar thana.

Obituary

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 21: Md Komoruddin Sardar, father of Prof Abu Ahmed, Satkhira Correspondent, The Daily Star passed away on January 7. He was 80. He has been suffering from fever since December 28, '94.

He left behind his wife, three sons, six daughters, a host of relatives and well wishers to mourn his death.

Leaders of different socio-political organisations of the district in separate condolence messages, expressed their deep shock and grief at the death of late Komoruddin Sardar. They also expressed their deep sympathy with the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Sylhet town inhabitants elect their pourashava chairman today

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Jan 21: All preparations have been taken to hold the election of the Sylhet Pourashava today. From the different points of view, the municipal election here has got an additional importance to the Sylhet Pourashava would be considered as the new divisional headquarters and fresh areas had already been included in the municipal areas.



A K M Kamal

The areas have been extended to 14.25 square miles from its previous area of 3.5 square miles. The number of wards have also been raised to 13 from five. The total number of voters now stands at one lakh 84 thousand 477 including 71,614 male and the rest 52,833 females.

The authorities has taken up necessary steps to hold the elections peacefully. Fifty-six presiding officers have already been appointed for 56 centres while the number of polling officers stands at 506. Elections will be held between 7 am and 2 pm, without any break. Additional police forces have been arranged for each polling centre.

The Sylhet Pourashava has a very well-known history of its own. It was established in 1878. As per government rules, the office of Chairman of pourashava was being held by the Deputy Collector (Deputy Commissioner) till the year 1887. Rai Bahadur Dulal Chandra Dev was elected the first chairman of Sylhet Pourashava in the year 1887. Khan Bahadur Abdul Majid was the first elected Muslim chairman of Sylhet pourashava. So far, 24 elected chairmen shouldered the responsibility of running the Sylhet Pourashava.

Since the liberation, four elections were held so far in the Sylhet Pourashava. These were in 1973, 1977, 1984 and in 1989.

This is the fifth elections, being held on January 22. As many as 11 candidates are contesting for the office of Chairman while the total number of candidates for the 26 posts of ward commissioners stands at 182. However, two candidates have withdrawn their candidatures after the scheduled date of withdrawal. They are, Organising Secretary of the District Jatiya Party, Azizur Rahman Aziz who withdrew his candidature in support of the JP candidate, Abdullah Siddiquee.

The last minutes campaign of the candidates reached a high pitch Friday. After midnight the vigorous campaign like meetings, processions have been stopped. However, the door to door contact was still going on in mohallas. Through the election of this lo-



R Kamran



Babul Hossain

cal body is not generally considered as something political, almost all the political parties have already involved themselves with the event. Central leaders have also joined the election campaigns.

Awami League central leaders like Abdur Razzaque, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Dewan

for the last eleven years. He was elected chairman in 1984 and 1989. A non-partisan candidate, Kamal is at a good position naturally due to his personal contact with all classes of people. People would positively see what Kamal had done during his long 11 years of chairmanship. He had taken up big

Ward Commissioner, Kutubuddin says, the people who could not solve the huge problems of the pourashava during the last decade, they can never be able to solve these in the near future. He also thinks that, good people should be elected for a clean and beautiful town. He would also try his best to convert the pourashava into a municipal



Qutubuddin

corporation. Kutubuddin would attract a good part of the rightist forces, many observed. Moulana Matlur Rahman Nizami, central Jamaat leader also joined the campaign in favour of Kutubuddin. Nizami said, honest people should be elected. Otherwise, problems can not be solved.

General Secretary of District Jatiya Sramik Party and Joint-Secretary of district Jatiya Party Abdullah Siddiqui is another candidate for the chairmanship. He said that, he had stood in the elections to solve the longstanding problems of the century-old pourashava. He considers the corruption as the major problem. Besides, traffic jam, drinking water, drainage system are also some other serious problems have gripped the town-dwellers. Absence of proper leadership had caused all these, he said.

JP central leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Nila Chowdhury joined the campaign in favour of Abdullah Siddiqui.

The ex-president of Sylhet district unit of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal and presently co-ordinator of the organisation for greater Sylhet Badruzzaman Selim in also another strong candidate for the chairmanship. He is backed by the BNP. Selim has got a good number of workers and supporters from the young and students community. Though supported by the BNP, none of the MPs or any central leader had joined the meetings or processions, it is observed.

Selim said that, he would launch a vigorous development programme in the newly formed divisional headquarters. As the present government has begun a large scale development movement throughout the country, Sylhet would also benefit, he added. He sought cooperation from all sections to win the elections. He also commits to convert the town as a municipal corporation, if elected.

Other candidates for the chairmanship are, Professor Makasud Ali, Alauddin and Chowdhury Swarna Muhi, the lone female candidate.

Housewife chopped to death, husband arrested

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 21: One Hiron Begum, 25, of Nandapur village under Bakerganj thana of Barisal district was mysteriously killed recently.

Her body was recovered by Bakerganj thana police recently from a paddy field nearby her house.

Bakerganj police arrested Abul Hossain, 30, husband of Hiron Begum after recovering the body.

According to Abul Hossain, his wife, Hiron Begum was chopped to death by two miscreants following previous enmity when they were coming from Kabirajbari to their house.

But police is suspecting that this murder was committed by Abul Hossain, himself.

A case was lodged with Bakerganj police in this connection.

Two notorious dacoits held in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 21: Barisal Kotwali police arrested two notorious dacoits, Abdus Sattar, 28, and Md Nabir Howlader, 31, from a boat on Kirtan Khola river near Rupatali recently.

Kotwali police also recovered one pipegun, one shut-turgun, and two rounds of gun cartridges from their possession.

In last five years

Contraband worth Tk 350 cr seized from border areas

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 21: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered smuggled goods worth Taka 350 crore 83 lakh 28 thousand 9 hundred 98 from different areas of the country during the last five years. They arrested a total of 12 thousand 7 hundred 91 alleged smugglers and lodged 90 thousand 76 cases with concerned thanas during the period under special anti-smuggling operations, said an official of BDR.

According to sources, during the period from 1990 to November 15, 1994, the BDR personnel seized smuggled goods worth Taka 294 crore 52 lakh 65 thousand 9 hundred 64 while smuggled into Bangladesh from India and seized smuggled goods worth Taka 56 crore 30 lakh 63 thousand 34 while smuggled out of Bangladesh to India.

According to the official statistics of the concerned authorities, smuggled goods worth Taka 42 crore 4 lakh 69 thousand 2 hundred 12 were

seized while smuggled into the country from India in 1990, Taka 60 crore 74 lakh 99 thousand 6 hundred 68 in 1991, Taka 62 crore 16 lakh 52 thousand 45 in 1992, Taka 76 crore 69 lakh 94 thousand 6 hundred 47 in 1993 and Taka 52 crore 86 lakh 50 thousand 3 hundred 92 in 1994 (upto November 15).

On the other hand, smuggled goods worth Taka 9 crore 69 lakh 69 thousand 8 hundred 42 were seized while being smuggled out of the country to India in 1990, Taka 13 crore 92 lakh 12 thousand 1 hundred 61 in 1991, Taka 17 crore 14 lakh 14 thousand 1 hundred 9 in 1992, Taka 8 crore 76 lakh 24 thousand 8 hundred 61 in 1993 and Taka 6 crore 78 lakh 42 thousand 61 in 1994 (upto November 15).

A total of 3811 alleged smugglers were arrested in 1990, 3318 smugglers in 1991, 2770 smugglers in 1992, 1819 smugglers in 1993 and 1073 smugglers in 1994 while 11767 cases were

lodged in 1990, 13251 cases in 1991, 18655 cases in 1992, 23616 cases in 1993 and 22785 cases in 1994.

According to the source, goods including various types

of vehicles, VCP, VCR, garments, clothes, salt, sugar, cattle, bi-cycles, bi-cycle parts, electronic parts, motorparts, crockeries, machinery parts, imitations, cosmetics, fruits, polyester, wrappers, three pieces, blouse pieces, phenyl, fan bearings, wine, drugs, blue film tapes, radio parts medicines, gold, pesticides, jute seeds, statue made of bronze, heroine, valuable stones, opium, ganja, spices, pulses, pressure cookers, TV parts, dish antenna parts, cassettes, bed sheets, lungi, rice, potatoes, diesel, coconut oil, shoes, duplicate machine rollers, carbon paper, cinema film reels, diesel injector pump, utensils, matches, bidi, Bangladeshi and Indian currency, US dollar and many other contraband items during the period.

Sharp rise in prices of cotton yarn in Pabna, Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 21: Sharp rise in prices of cotton yarn seriously affect the handloom oriented cottage industries in greater Pabna district.

It is gathered that there are about 80,000 semi-automatic handlooms and 20,000 pit looms in 17 thanas of Pabna and Sirajganj districts. According to official sources, 4,10,000 yards of cloth are produced if all the looms are in operation. Due to manifold problems including erosion, floods and time to time price hike of cotton yarn, dyes, chemicals and other inputs, 20 per cent of the handlooms remained closed. More than three lakh people including women and children were engaged in this profession directly or indirectly in greater Pabna district. Quality products including cotton shari, lungi,

dhuti, bed-sheet, towels, synthetic shari, woolen sheets and zamandi shari are produced in the handloom factories.

During last few days, prices of cotton yarn have recorded sharp rise. The factory owners are to pay more Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000 for one bale (400 lbs) of cotton yarn. The home products of 40/1, 60/1 and 62/1 counts yarn have increased much. Imported yarn price have also jumped considerably. According to a source of cotton mills owners, crisis of raw cotton is the main cause of price hike of cotton yarn. But the consumers of cotton yarn have given different opinions. When contacted, some handloom factory owners, told this correspondent that required quantity of cotton yarn is available if higher prices are paid. So crisis of

raw cotton, as the mill owners say, is not acceptable.

The total economic system of Sirajganj and Pabna district depends on handloom oriented cottage industries. Abnormal price hike of cotton yarn yields higher cost of production. Consequently, the local products fail to compete in the market with imported or smuggled clothes. Some reputed handloom factory owners have told this correspondent that if such situation prevails, the sector will collapse and thousands of workers engaged in the handloom factories will be rendered unemployed.

The knowledgeable sources have opined immediate steps by the higher authority to ensure supply of cotton yarn at fair price to save handloom oriented cottage industries of greater Pabna district.

BNP govt 'violated' its own election pledges : Mizan

From Staff Correspondent

TANGAIL, Jan 21: Jatiya Party acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Wednesday said the government would have to resign ultimately and announce the date of next general election under a caretaker government, reports UNB.

"It will be of no use killing time," he added, blaming the government for dilly-dally in accepting the opposition's resignation from parliament.

The Speaker sometimes forget that he holds an institutional post, not a party position, the JP leader said, while addressing a public meeting at the Bindubasini High School ground in the afternoon.

The meeting organised by district JP was also addressed, among others, by Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Nur Mohammad Khan, Shameem Al Mamun, Fazlur Rahman, Bulbul Khan Mahbub and Advocate Manoj Kumar Chowdhury. District JP President Shamsul Haq Talukdar presided.

Mizan Chowdhury said, if anyone from the opposition is thinking of returning to parliament compromising with the government, then it will be an anti-constitutional act. In such an event of violation of law and the constitution, he warned, the existence of the country will come under threat.

"There is no way one can return to parliament, once an MP tenders his resignation to the Speaker," Chowdhury said. "Then his post automatically falls vacant."

4 dacoits held in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 21: Four members of an inter-district dacoit gang were arrested from Pribardi under Sonargaon thana here in the small hours today.

Police patrolling Pribardi area found a gang of 10 to 12 dacoits sitting on a truck (Dhaka No-5781) on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at around 2 am. Sensing police presence, some of the dacoits fled with arms while police with the help of the local people arrested four of them and seized the truck.

The arrested are Lal Mia, Abul Baahar, Tara Mia and Samihur Mia. A case has been registered with the Sonargaon Police Station.

One commits suicide in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Jan 21: A college student, Kartik Chandra Das, 20, committed suicide at village Sutabaria of Chiknikandi union under Patuakhali thana of the district on Tuesday.

It is reported that, on the day of occurrence at midnight Kartik went out of their house and killed himself by hanging from the branch of a mango tree at the bank of a nearby pond.

He was the son of one Santi Ranjan Das and a student of HSC class of Patuakhali Govt. University College.

He became mentally retarded before his suicide, the sources said.

An UD case was filed with the Galachipa police in this connection.



SYLHET: Rotary Club of Jalalabad arranged a reception in honour of the group study exchange team from USA and interact exchange team from India recently at a local hotel.

Rise in expenses, number of schools Standard of education declining

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 21: The number of schools and their expenses both are rising but the standard of education is declining.

There are 3 to 4 junior high schools which have three classes from VI to VIII. These schools situated in rural areas, have been running since the Pakistan period.

The condition of these schools are dilapidated, as these have neither qualified teaching staff nor satisfactory enrolment yet some of the schools have been enjoying 90 per cent government benefit.

This is no doubt, wastage of government fund for so called 'education'. During British rule, there were 4-class ME schools and ME Madrasahs which had compulsory final examination at the end of class VI. Those who could pass that examina-

tion would be allowed to be admitted into class VIII. After passing that examination, the boys could show better results in higher examination.

During the Pakistan period, these schools were done away with as primary classes were extended upto class V. And as such higher education began to deteriorate.

In the then Middle English (ME) schools and madrasahs, English, Bengali and Arithmetic were taught in such a way as no students would fail in the Matriculation examinations in those subjects. Especially, after passing the ME final examinations, the boys could write better an essay in English. In fact in those schools boys would acquire basic knowledge in English.

Since the start of junior schools, the school have not

introduced any final examination. So they are nominally taught different subjects: Still they are given pass certificates for admission in class IX.

If there was a compulsory final scholarship examination at the end of class VIII, the students would do better results in higher examination and unfair means will go from higher examinations to some extent.

Now a days, most pupil pass examinations through unfair means which is one of the major factor for degradation of education.

Some learned circles are of the expression that at the end of class VIII in all junior schools, high schools and madrasahs, a compulsory leaving certificate and scholarship examination should be introduced as a remedy.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Madaripur

Notice Inviting Tender (Tender Notice No.40/94-95)

Scaled Tender in Bangladesh form No 2911 is hereby invited from Special Class-I(One), Class-II(One) approved Bldg. Contractor/Firm of PWD for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Barisal/Bhola/Barguna/ Peropur/ Patuakhali/Jhalokati/Gopalganj/Shariatpur up to 12.00 Noon of 2-2-95 and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence of the intending tenderers who may like to be remain present. The tender form will be sold up to 1.2.95.

1. Name of Work : Construction of Thana-Cum-Barrack Building of Madaripur Sadar Thana in connection with construction of 36 Nos Thana Cum-Barrack Building in Different Dist. One at Madaripur.
2. Estimated Cost : Tk. 39,51,800/= only.
3. Earnest Money : Tk. 79,036/= only.
4. Time allowed : 7(Seven) Months from the date of issue of work order.

Contract documents consisting of BD form No. 2911, Notice inviting tender, Schedule of items, Additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and the office of all Executive Engineers under PWD Circle, Barisal on payment of usual charges during the office hours on all working days.

ASM Zaman
Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madaripur.

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