

National

One killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA June 7: Sohagi, 10, a young girl was crushed under the wheels of a running coaster 'Rupali Paribahan' yesterday at Battail, four miles from here on Kushtia-Jhenidah road. eyewitnesses and police sources said.

The victim was walking by the side of the road but the driver of the coaster bound for Jhenidah reportedly lost control and hit her from behind. She died on the spot. Sohagi is the daughter of one Abdul Khar of village Battail.

Another two persons on board the roof top of coaster fell from the roof and sustained serious injuries. They were identified as Rawsan Ali, 35, and Jabbar 23. Both were admitted to Kushtia General hospital. A case has been filed in Kushtia police station in this connection.

Those who ruled the country had done nothing for poor people: Menon

RAJSHAHI, June 7: Workers Party general secretary Rashed Khan Menon said here Thursday that the political parties who ruled the country had done nothing for the poor people rather they plundered the wealth of the people and made their own fortune, reports BSS.

Addressing an election meeting here at Shaheb Bazar area, Menon strongly criticised Awami League, BNP, Jamaat and Jatiya Party and said that those who rigged the vote have no right for asking mandate again in the coming parliament election.

The meeting was addressed among others by Fazle Hossain Badsha, a left front candidate for Rajshahi-2 constituency.

The Workers Party leader said that it was the duty of the people to elect honest, capable and patriotic candidates in the coming election for changing the lot of common people as well as to consolidate the democratic process in the country.

If the party voted to power, Menon said that they would work for changing the lot of the poor people and make Bangladesh an exploitation free country.

Present politics devoid of any ideology: Islami Oikya Jote

BAGHERHAT, June 7: Chairman of Islami Oikya Jote Alama Nazrul Hug on Thursday stressed the need for eradication of corruption from the society, reports BSS.

Addressing two electioneering meetings at Mollarhat under Bagherhat and Shipchar under Madaripur district he criticised the on-going politics in the country and termed the present politics as devoid of any principle and ideology.

He further said corruption has gripped the whole nation and the Oikya Jote is working hard to establish an ideal Islamic state free from exploitation.

Special Power Act Political leaders, workers held in Jhalakati

JHALAKATI, June 7: Ten local leaders and workers of different front organisations of the major political parties were arrested from three thanas of the district on Wednesday night, reports BSS.

Police said district unit convenor of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Tipu Sultan, Rajapur unit president of Jubo Dal Mizanur Rahman Monir, 24 members Masum Billah and Mahmud Mia Pakhi were detained under the special power Act.

The arrested also included Jhalakati Government College unit secretary of pro-Awami League Chhatra League Dipu Laskar, Razapur town unit vice-president Aminul Islam and Judo League member Zahrul Islam Lal.

Razapur town unit organising secretary of Jatiya Judo Sanghati Rabih Ahmed Khasru, Chhatra Samaj leader Badru Alap Plash and Faruq Mollah were also taken into custody under the Act.

Of the arrested, seven were picked up from Razapur, two from Sadar and one from Nalchiti thana. All the arrested were sent to jail Thursday.

Gun battle: 20 Chokh Bandha party activists injured

MANIKGANJ, June 7: At least 20 activists of 'Chokh Bandha Party' were wounded in a factional arms clash here on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Police and witnesses said, the two factions, Milon group and Bohra group of the terrorist party locked in three hours (6-9 am) long gunfight at village Chouhata in Dhamrai following the killing of one group leader Milon on previous day.

Among the injured, commander Nur Alam was sent to Dhaka in a critical condition while others were taken to elsewhere to avoid arrest.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area.



Awami League president Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting during her election campaign at Chalna Port in Khulna on Thursday. — Star photo

Triangular fight likely in most seats of Bogra

From Our Correspondent back from Bogra

RAJSHAHI, June 7: Election campaign for the forthcoming parliamentary elections has got momentum in all seven constituencies of Bogra district.

According to information gathered from different political and nonpolitical sources while visiting some areas of Bogra, a very important district in the northern region of the country, triangular fights are expected among the candidates of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Awami League (AL) and Jamaat-e-Islami in most of the constituencies.

In 1991 elections, BNP and Jamaat bagged six and one seats respectively. Jamaat, Awami League and BNP candidates were the closest contestants in five, one and one constituencies respectively.

According to the observers and political sources, BNP has lost popularity to some extent and on the other hand Awami League and Jamaat have gained people's support proportionately. Still then, BNP has been in leading position in some seats.

In 1991, BNP candidate Dr Habibur Rahman won Bogra-1 (Sariakandi and Sonatola Thanas) seat. He got 62,644 votes. Jamaat candidate Shahabuddin was the nearest one who got 21,521 votes.

Five candidates are contesting for Bogra-2 (Shirbganj Thana) seat which was won by Maulana Shahadatuzzaman of Jamaat-e-Islami in 1991 election. He got 33,968 votes and his nearest contestant Motiur Rahman of BNP bagged 24,213 votes.

For June 12 election BNP nominated a new candidate, Advocate Hafizur Rahman, who has not, reportedly, very close relations with his partymen in Bogra.

Mamudur Rahman Manna of Awami League is also a new face in the area. Jamaat candidate, an old face, has an advantage to capture this seat again though a close triangular fight is expected to take place among the candidates of Awami League, BNP and Jamaat.

Bogra-3 constituency comprises of Adomdighi and Duppacharia thanas. Abdul M

jid of BNP won the seat by securing 40,188 votes and his nearest contestant Mofajul Huq of Jamaat got 29,563 votes in 1991 elections. Along with them, Salaiman Ali of Awami League, A B M Shahjahan of Jatiya Party, Jakirul Islam (Independent), Sirajul Islam of Jaker Party and Ismail Hossain, of Khelafat Andolion are contesting for the seat this time.

A total of eight candidates — Dr Jiaul Huq Molla of BNP, Shahidul Alam Dulu of Awami League, Naji Ahmed Mondol of Jamaat, Mamudur Rahman Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, Saidul Islam of Freedom Party, Rejaul Karim of JSD-Indu and Shahidul Islam Dulal of Jaker Party are contesting in Bogra-1 constituency (Kahala and Nondigram Thanas) for the forthcoming election. This seat was won by late Azizul Huq Molla of BNP and the nearest contestant was Abdur Rahman Fakir of Jamaat. They got 43,247 and 24,371 votes respectively. Both the parties have fielded new candidates who are supposed to be the main contestants. Ex-minister Mamudur Rahman Chowdhury may get a considerable amount of votes but that will not be sufficient for the main contest, political observers say. Awami League candidate is rising and he may, many voters feel, join the triangular fight with the BNP and Jamaat candidates.

Bogra-5 constituency comprises of Sherpur and Dhunot Thanas was bagged by BNP candidate Golam Mohammad Siraj in 1991 polls. He got 69,388 votes. His nearest contestant Ferdous Jaman Mukul secured 63,564 votes. Jamaat candidate was in third position with a small margin. There are seven candidates this year contesting for the seat. They are, Golam Mohammad Siraj of BNP, Ferdous Jaman Mukul of Awami League, Monjurul Huq Sarkar of Jamaat, S M Ferdous Alam of JSD-Rab, Abdul Hakim of Jaker Party, Abu Taher of Islami Oikya Jote and Mojahar Ali of Workers party.

This time, a total of six candidates are contesting for the constituency. They are Begum Khaleda Zia of BNP, Walid Huq of Awami League, Fazle Rabbi of Jamaat-e-Islami, A B M Sirajul Islam (Independent), Rezaul Barai of JSD-Rab and Shahsul Alam Dulu of BSD-Khalequzzaman.

Evaluating the prevailing situation, observers and political sources said that BNP may lose four seats from Bogra in the coming June 12 election and those seats may be divided among the candidates of Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami. A few analysts, however, observe that BNP may manage the situation in the last minute.

80pc polling centres in Khulna city identified as 'trouble spots'

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, June 7: At least eighty per cent polling centres are being apprehended as 'trouble spots' in the city. But the KMP Commissioner, when asked, put the percentage down saying that vulnerable points will be closely guarded with the highest attention.

The some source of KMP said that out of 5,262 Ansars, police and BDR, 444 BDR Jawans will be deployed for the sake of ensuring free and fair elections on June 12. Besides, mobile and stand-by forces will be ready to meet any eventualities.

According to the Deputy Election Commissioner, a total of 153 polling centres have been set up out of which only seven centres will be engaged for maintaining law and order on the day of elections.

Pre-polls clashes leave 20 hurt in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, June 7: At least 30 people were injured, eight of them seriously, in clashes between Awami League and BNP activists during election campaign in two constituencies this evening, reports UNB.

A clash erupted when BNP supporters allegedly attacked AL workers with lethal weapons like dao, sticks just after Magrib prayers, which left 10 people injured.

The AL workers then gave a short break in their campaign which was held at Bir Bamotkhal school ground in Mymensingh-9 constituency (Nandail) for prayers.

The seriously injured in the violence are Helal Uddin 28, Mutaleb, 35, Lal Kha, 40, and Dulaluddin, 40. They were admitted to Nandail thana health complex.

Another violence at Dapuria bazar in the Mymensingh-4 constituency left at least 20 people injured, four of them seriously.

Nor'wester lashes 35 villages in Kishoreganj, one killed

National

Chief Adviser's interview with VOA

Chief adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman has said that his government was all set to accomplish its main task of holding free and fair election.

In an interview with the 'Voice of America', which was broadcast on June 4 and reported by BSS. The chief adviser expressed his confidence that power would be peacefully transferred soon after the finalisation of the election results.

Following is the full text of the chief adviser's interview with Daud Khan Majlis of VOA:

Question: What are the major problems, you think, you are facing in the discharge of your duties as the chief adviser?

Answer: I am facing no major problems. There are, however, more than one thousand one nitty-gritties that crop up during an election season. They are minor problems. They do not call for any serious concern.

Question: Do you think you are getting full cooperation from all the political parties?

Answer: Because of the seven words in the thirteenth amendment, the last retired chief justice of Bangladesh, the burden of the non-party caretaker government has fallen on my shoulder. I advised myself that I should refuse to bear the burden unless principal political parties assured me of full cooperation. I was advised that I should ask for a written commitment. I said no word of mouth would be good enough for me. One political leader preferred to speak to the press that full cooperation would be extended to the non-party caretaker government. All other principal political parties assured me of full cooperation. I was advised that I should ask for a written commitment. I said no word of mouth would be good enough for me. One political leader preferred to speak to the press that full cooperation would be extended to the non-party caretaker government.

Question: Do you think you are getting full cooperation from all the political parties?

Answer: We have already decided that the defence forces will be deployed to assist the civil administration in the maintenance of law and order for a specific period, a few days before and a few days after the election.

Question: Are you considering bringing in the armed forces to help the civil authorities during the election?

Answer: We have already decided that the defence forces will be deployed to assist the civil administration in the maintenance of law and order for a specific period, a few days before and a few days after the election.

Question: Are you considering bringing in the armed forces to help the civil authorities during the election?

Answer: We are dealing with no constitutional problem. Every day numerous opinions are being published in the newspapers though. This is because of the unfamiliar character of the caretaker government.

Question: What role President Biswas is playing in the process of holding free and fair election? And what will his position be after a new elected government is in place?

Answer: The president is the head of the republic. He will remain the president till the next president is elected.

He has certain specific constitutional responsibilities. I am the head of the government. I have got some specified constitutional responsibilities. We are working together. We are giving all possible aid and assistance to the election commission so that election may

be held peacefully, fairly and impartially.

Question: Do you sincerely believe that the election in June will be free and fair?

Answer: Of course, I do. I am quite confident about it. We are all set to accomplish our main task of holding a free and fair election. Power will be peacefully transferred soon after the finalisation of the election results.

Question: What advice are you going to give to the next government that comes to power?

Answer: I am the chief adviser of the non-party caretaker government. I would not like to give any advice to the next government that is going to be formed on the basis of a multi-party election. I hope, they will be true to their election promises and will be able to satisfy appreciably the hopes and aspirations of the people of Bangladesh.

Question: And finally a couple of personal questions. Are you enjoying the responsibilities that have been thrust upon you? What are you planning to do once you complete your term as the head of the caretaker government? Would you accept any office, if offered, by the new government?

Answer: On the 53rd day of our government our staff got the first half-day off. We were working from 9 am to 9 pm with about two hours break. My wife sarcastically said you must be enjoying your new job.

Question: Is your government dealing with any constitutional problem? If so, what are those problems or issues?

Answer: We are dealing with no constitutional problem. Every day numerous opinions are being published in the newspapers though. This is because of the unfamiliar character of the caretaker government.

Question: Are the law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh fully non-partisan and capable of performing their duties without favour or fear?

Answer: I think we have succeeded in creating an environment where the law-enforcing agencies can work independently without any fear or favour. They are doing their job well. I have full confidence in them.

Question: Hundreds of observers from all parts of the world are planning to go to Bangladesh to monitor the election. Do you think all of them are needed and welcome?

Answer: I would not say we need foreign observers, but we welcome them whatever their number may be. Their presence in Bangladesh may encourage all participants to work for a fair and impartial election.

Question: Has the country's economic condition stabilised and improved since your government took over?

Answer: There has been perceptible improvement in the economic condition of the country since our government took over. This has been possible due to some quick steps

taken by us in the economic field. Achievement of overall stability may take some more time. We are working towards that direction.

Question: What advice are you going to give to the next government that comes to power?

Answer: I am the chief adviser of the non-party caretaker government. I would not like to give any advice to the next government that is going to be formed on the basis of a multi-party election. I hope, they will be true to their election promises and will be able to satisfy appreciably the hopes and aspirations of the people of Bangladesh.

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