

National

News snaps

Law and order reviewed

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 5: The monthly review meeting on law and order of the district for the month of October was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office on October 25, reports BSS.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner A M M Farhad, the meeting discussed matters relating to law and order of the district. All thana and district level officials attended the meeting.

85,000 saplings planted

PIROJPUR, Nov 5: About 85,000 fruit bearing and timber saplings were planted in the district during the just concluded tree plantation drive, to help maintain ecological balance, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department planted the saplings on the premises of different public institutions, including school, college, madrasah, orphanage, graveyard and 'Eldgah'. Thanawala break-up of saplings planted: Kaukhali 9,440, Nesarabad 17,080, Nazirpur 14,395, Bhandaria 14,395, Mathbaria 13,685 and Sadar 12,410.

Abbasuddin Mela

RANGPUR, Nov 5: Three-day Abbasuddin Mela concluded here on October 29 as people enjoyed the immortal *bhawaiya* songs till midnight, reports UNB.

The mela was held at the Shaheed Minar Square in the district town to mark the 98th birth anniversary of Abbasuddin, the king of *bhawaiya* songs. Folk culture expert Dr Ashraf Siddiqui inaugurated the mela on October 27 at a function attended, among others, by Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Ferdousi Rahman and Nasirul Kamal, son, daughter and grandchild respectively of Abbasuddin. During the fair, nightlong sessions of *bhawaiya* songs were organised and 10 stalls set up exhibiting books and handicrafts. On the concluding day, Abbasuddin Academy of Domar, Nilphamari organised a function to hand over Abbasuddin National Award to Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and PDB chairman Kamrul Islam Siddique.

Seminar on community welfare

PARIDPUR, Nov 5: A seminar on "collective responsibilities to improve community welfare with cultural activists and local media" organised by Dhaka-based Theatre Centre for Social Development (TCS) was held here last week at local Kabir Jasmuddin Hall, reports BSS.

Golam Rabbani, Lecturer, Social Welfare and Research Institute, Dhaka University, presented the keynote paper on the subject. Rabbani described different phases of the development process and its barriers in our country. He emphasised on the role of the cultural activists and local media. The seminar was addressed, among others, by Prof M Shahjahan and Prof Feroza Begum of Government Sarada Sundari Mahilla College, Prof Kakali Mukherjee of Government Rajendra College and Prof Rezaul Islam of Dhaka University. It was presided over by Shahidul Alam Sachku, President of TCS.

50 hurt as rivals clash

LAXMIPUR, Nov 5: At least 50 people were injured in a clash between rivals over sharing of tolls at Bibirhat Bazaar in Ramgati thana of the district on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said supporters of Jisseee Sarwar engaged in a fierce clash at about 10 pm with the supporters of another lease holder, Tulu, over the sharing of tolls collected from traders at Bibirhat Bazaar. The feuding groups chased each other in the 3-4 hour clash that left 15 men of Tulu group and 15 others of Sarwar group wounded. Twenty other people, mostly small traders, also received injuries. A case was filed with the local thana.

Foodgrains distributed

CHUADANGA, Nov 5: A total of 273 metric tons of foodgrains have been distributed among the 3,035 card holders of 31 unions of four thanas of the district under VGD programme during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to official sources, 149 metric tons of foodgrains were distributed among the 1,651 card holders of 13 unions under Alamganga, 80 metric tons among 889 card holders of seven unions under Chuadanga, 28 metric tons among 315 card holders of seven unions under Damurhuda and 16 metric tons among 180 card holders of four unions under Jibannagar thanas of the district. Each card holder is getting 30 kgs of foodgrain every month under VGD programme, official sources added.

Villages under electricity scheme

CHUADANGA, Nov 5: A total of 292 villages of all the four thanas of Chuadanga district have been brought under Rural Electrification Programme (REP), reports BSS.

The four thanas of Chuadanga district are Sadar, Alamganga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, of the total villages 77 have been brought under the Rural Electrification Programme in Sadar thana, 124 villages in Alamganga thana, 50 villages in Damurhuda thana and 41 villages in Jibannagar thana. So far, over 26,000 residential, commercial, irrigation, industrial and other connections have been given in the district under the Rural Electrification Programme.

Drug addicts on rise

KUSHTIA, Nov 5: Alarming rise in the number of drug addicts in the district town and adjoining areas caused concern among the peace loving people and the guardians, reports UNB. The addicts, mostly youths, are often engaged in mugging, toll collection and daevo to collect money for buying opium, morphine, sedative tablets, mriya sanjibini sura, pheniside and alcohol spirit. The junction of Thanapara, Katakhia and Kadamtala, Majampur Railway Crossing, BADC Markets, Milpara, Chheuria Laonmajar are the main hub of the drug addicts. Local people alleged the police were playing a role of silent spectators to the misdeed. They urged the government to take strict measures to save the youths for sake of the country.

UP member assaulted

NATORE, Nov 5: A woman member of Faguindiar union parished under Bagatipara thana has been assaulted by supporters of her rival who was defeated in the last election, reports UNB.

Supporters of Abdur Rashid stormed the house of Nurjahan Begum and beat her mercilessly on October 27, according to a delayed report. They said the hired goons of Rashid did not spare even her young daughters Dalia, 15, and Julia, 17, when they tried to protect their mother. The attack as a sequel of enmity. Nurjahan Begum and her daughters were admitted to Sadar hospital with severe injuries. A case was filed with the local police station in this connection.

Cop killed in road accident

RANGPUR, Nov 5: A young man was killed and 35 were injured as a bus collided with a truck at Mirzapur in Pirojganj thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Abdul Jabbar, 35, a constable of Borodarogapur police outpost. Witnesses said the accident occurred in the evening when the Bogra-bound BRTC bus collided with the truck coming from opposite direction, leaving 36 passengers of the bus injured. Jabbar succumbed to his injuries in Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Condition of the bus helper, Ratan, 32, was stated to be critical. The other injured passengers of the bus were admitted to RMCH and thana health complex.

Fake colonel arrested

NOAKHALI, Nov 5: A fake colonel was arrested by the police from the Banglabaazar in Begumganj thana Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Policeman said a local youngster, A M Yusuf, claimed himself colonel in the Army and demanded toll from the businessmen of Banglabaazar. The businessmen caught him and handed over to the police. A case was filed against Yusuf.

Boy injured in bomb blast

NOAKHALI, Nov 5: The right hand of a minor boy was blown away in explosion of a bomb at Golabarria in Begumganj thana in the district Thursday morning, reports UNB.

The police and hospital sources said Saidul, 12, son of a poor man, lost his hand when he was collecting polythene bags from a roadside dustbin. The boy was rushed to the Sadar hospital. Police visited the spot and recovered three more bombs from the dustbin.

20 hurt in gunfight

MADRIPUR, Nov 5: A fierce gunfight between rival groups of traders left at least 20 people injured, 8 of them critically, at Karimganj bazaar under Kalkini thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said the fighting was a sequel to quarrel over the lease of Karimganj hat. Supporters of Bepari and Sardar groups fought the battle that lasted about an hour. During the clash both sides used fire weapons. About 50 gunshots were fired injuring at least 20 people. Both the groups fled case against each other.



Passengers of the first London-Sylhet direct Biman flight disembark as the inaugural flight lands at Osmani International Airport in Sylhet on Thursday. The national carrier will operate the flight twice a week with wide-bodied aircraft.

London-Sylhet flight lands

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 5: The first direct international flight in London-Dubai-Sylhet route reached Sylhet on Thursday at 12:55 pm, 65 minutes behind the schedule.

The 221-seat Airbus landed at the Sylhet Osmani Airport with 169 passengers on board. Of them, 159 were from London and 10 from Dubai, said an official source. With this, a long-felt demand of the people of greater Sylhet had been met as most of the expatriate Bangladeshis in the UK hail from this region.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury received the passengers at the airport. Prime Minister's Advisor on Parliamentary Affairs Suranjit Sengupta, Civil Aviation Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Whip Abdus Shahid, Syeda Zebunnissa Haque MP, Dewan Farid Gazi MP, Nurul Islam Nahid MP, Imran Ahmed MP, Sultan Mohammad Mansur MP, Shah Azizur Rahman MP, Hafiz Ahmed Majumder MP, Syedul Haque Shafiq, Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury, General Secretary of UK unit Awami Juba League, and Manager, Marketing and Sales, Biman, Mahmudur Rahman with Rafiqul Islam, MD of Biman, in the chair.

Earlier, Chairman of the Task Force on repatriated Tribals and Internal Refugee Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukdar, MP, gave polio vaccine drops to a few children at Monoghar Orphanage Centre and Shapchhari-Manikchhari Centre to encourage the spontaneous health professionals and rushing guardians of the under-five

Jail Killing Day observed

Shamsur Rahman, the meeting was addressed, among others, by party leaders Monirul Islam Moni, Abdul Bashir Khan, Advocate Mohamad Ali, Anwar Hossain, Md A Babul Rana, Abul Kalam Azad, Talukder Shamsul Huq, Prof. Hosne-Ara-Ranu, Mallik Abid Hossain, Kabir Morteza Shajkh, Ali Akbar Tipu and Shafikul Islam.

AL mayoral candidate for Khulna City Corporation SMA Rob was present as the chief guest.

In Chittagong, Bangladesh Railway Sramik League (BRSL) held a meeting and brought out a procession to demand speedy trial of the killers of four national leaders.

The procession paraded different city streets chanting slogans in support of their demands.

They also held a meeting with MA Mottalib Meah in the chair. Central president of BRSL Rahmat Ullah and general secretary Sheikh Lokman Hossain were present as chief and special guests respectively.

Local leaders of BRSL also addressed the meeting.

They demanded speedy trial of the killers of four national leaders in Dhaka Central Jail.

In Bandarban, the day was observed by the district unit of Bangladesh Awami League and its front organisations in a befitting manner.

The Awami League and its front organisations organised a discussion where the speakers described the day a 'black chapter of the history of the country. The discussion was presided over by Safiqur Rahman.

The discussion was addressed, among others, by Awami League leaders Kajal Kanti Das, AKM Jahangir, Mizanur Rahman Biplob, Utam Das and Mohammed Ishaq.

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