

NEWS SNAPS

Voters' movement to be monitored

UNB, Faridpur
Voters' movement and law and order situation will be monitored through video cameras during the polling.

District administration will provide 30 cameras for 277 vulnerable centers out of total 483. This was disclosed by Deputy Commissioner AKM Abdul Awal Majumder at a meeting that reviewed the law and order situation in the district. Lt Col Wahiduzzaman, Sq Ldr Sahabuddin, SP Shah Alam Sikder, all UNOs, thana officers-in-charge and magistrates attended the meeting. The meeting reiterated that civil and military administration would jointly do everything possible in ensuring Monday's poll free, fair and smooth.

Nalitabari Awami League meeting held

BSS, Sherpur
The election meeting of Nalitabari upazilas Awami League was held at Nalitabari Taragonj High School premises on Tuesday.

The meeting was presided over by the upazila Awami League president and municipality Chairman Abdul Halim Ukil. Among others, ex-MP Mizanur Rahman and local Awami League candidate, Begum Matia Chowdhury attended the meeting. The speakers called upon the people to cast their votes for the Awami League candidate in the coming election to expedite development work.

Call to ensure security of minority voters

UNB, Thakurgaon
Local Nagarik Committee on Friday urged the district administration to ensure security of the minority people who are reportedly being threatened.

In a memorandum submitted to Deputy Commissioner A T M Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury, the citizens' committee said minority voters are facing direct and indirect threats by certain quarters. The committee also conducted publicity over microphone in all unions of Sadar upazila urging the minority voters to cast their vote without fear on October 1. On Thursday evening, the committee organised a rally in the town and protested the threats to the minority people. Former DUCSU member Mostak Alam Tulu, Tareq Noor Mamun, Mahmood Hassan Prince, student leaders Jamila Bopasa Kanta, Firoz Ali Mufti, Anurudha Anu, Sadrul Islam Saadi and Kamal Hossain addressed the rally, among others.

Four injured in bomb explosion

UNB, Bhola
Four people including two girls were injured critically in a bomb explosion at South Charnobad village of Sadar upazila on Friday.

The explosion took place in a house owned by Abdul Haq Munshi in the afternoon leaving Mizanur Rahman, 20, Hanif, 14, Kohinur Begum, 9, and Sultana Begum injured. Of them, Mizanur's eyes were blown in the explosion and he was rushed to Barisal in a critical condition. According to Awami League sources Mizan was a BNP activist and the explosion occurred while making bombs. In another incident on the same day, the legs of a rickshawpuller were blown in a bomb explosion in front of district Chhatra League office in Sadar upazila. Besides, two activists of Jubo League Mujahidul Islam and Babul were injured critically in a bomb attack on a procession of Awami League near Pakhir Poll temple here on Thursday.

CHTRC member arrested

UNB, Khagrachhari
Police on Tuesday arrested a member of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) suspecting his involvement with a murder.

The arrested, Mohammad Yousuf, was sent to jail hajat on the next day after a court rejected his bail petition. Police said they arrested Yousuf following the unnatural death of a young boy, Omar Faruq, employee of a petrol pump owned by Yousuf, last Friday.

Eight arrested: 2 firearms recovered

UNB, Pabna
Eight people were arrested and two firearms recovered from Khudra Gopalpur and Syedpur villages of Santhia upazila on Tuesday-Wednesday.

On information, police and army men jointly raided the house of Abdul Awal of Khudra Gopalpur village at about 1.30 am and arrested his wife Mamta Khatun, son Swapan and one Ranju. They later recovered a revolver loaded with bullets from Mamta and seized a mobile phone set and a stolen motorbike from Swapan. Meanwhile, the law enforcers in their joint drive arrested five people from Syedpur village of the upazila on Wednesday. A pipe gun and a sharp weapon were also recovered from their possession.

RU library in a shambles

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) library is in a shambles. As a result the students are suffering a lot.

The library has no collection of up-to-date books or journals. It has no recently published encyclopaedia, dictionary, yearbook, census report or other library materials.

Such is the situation for the last 10 years. This is because of indifference of the library authorities.

Students, teachers, researchers and other faculty members come to the library for recent library collections for research and other academic purposes, but in vain.

The library has two management-committeeseone Library Committee and the other Library Sub-Committee headed by the Vice Chancellor (VC) of the university while the Administrator in-charge of the Librarian is the Member Secretary.

The two committees decide different development policies of the library including purchase of library materials. The library administration sources said that the library administration can not hold the meeting of the committees regularly, which subsequently stands in the way of the development of the library.

As most of the books and journals in the present collection of the library numbering three lakh are either outdated or obsolete. This results in degradation of the standard of education of the university.

Pages of important books are most often seen to have been cut down.

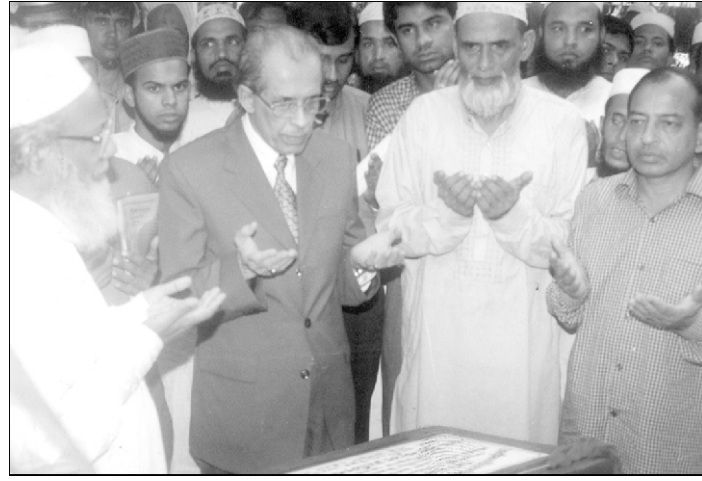


PHOTO: STAR

Brigadier (ret'd) Abdul Malik, Adviser for Health, Family Planning and Religious Affairs offering prayer after laying the foundation stone of the divisional complex of Islamic Foundation in Sylhet last week.

55 candidates contesting from Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

Some 55 candidates are contesting Monday's national elections from different parties and on individual capacity in six constituencies of the district.

District election commission sources said that some 440 polling centres with 2,713 booths have been set up to facilitate 14,32,323 voters to exercise their right to franchise.

Official sources said all preparations have been completed to hold the election in free, fair and peaceful manner. They said a total of 8,579 presiding, assistant presiding and polling officers have been appointed and they were imparted necessary training to conduct the election properly.

Meanwhile, the incidents of violence have come down significantly following the setting up of army camps in the respective constituencies and the routine patrolling of army in different areas.

Meanwhile, the election officials have identified 340 polling centres out of the total as vulnerable of which 130 were said to be most vulnerable. They also said stringent security measures have been taken in this regard.



PHOTO: STAR

Faysal Morshed Khan, chief operating officer of Pacific Telecom Company addressing the opening ceremony of Citycell Digital mobile phone system in Cox's Bazar recently.

11 chased by police, fall into burning ashes of rice mill

UNB, Natore

On a hot chase by police 11 people fell into burning ashes of rice husking mill at Lalpur on Thursday night.

Of them, Zillur Rahman and two others unidentified were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with severe burn injuries. Aslam, Farooq, Jabbar and Saker are undergoing treatment at Lalpur Health Complex and the rest in undisclosed clinics.

Residents said Ismail, chairman of Duaria Union and local BNP leader, was out at night for campaign in favour of his party candidate. On way he was beaten by Awami League leader Jarjis.

As the news spread BNP supporters gathered at Duaria Bazaar to take revenge on Awami Leaguers.

On information police and army rushed to the spot at about 1 at night. Apprehending trouble BNP supporters ran for safety, 11 of them fell into burning ashes.

Legs burnt one of them was caught by the army personnel and

handed over to the police.

Army said that they did not chase the villagers. The accident occurred when the victims were fleeing being chased by the police.

Indian arrested in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

An Indian national, suspected to be an illegal arms supplier, and three others were arrested in a special drive in the city on Sunday.

Police said they caught an Indian national identified as Reaz, 27, along with a sophisticated revolver from in front of KCC Bhaban at about 11 am.

Reaz, an illegal arms trader, was staying in a rented house near Hotel Light in Sheikhpura, police said.

Mahmud alias Mamun, a cadre of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party was taken into custody from shop in the city on Saturday night.

Besides, nonsense words are also seen written in the books.

The teachers borrow 'a good number of books' from the library, but they do not return those in time keeping those with them for years together. The library administration never dares to issue warning letters against them.

The library personnel do not pay adequate attention to the proper management of the library including the reading rooms. They do not check the arrangement of books whether those are in the proper order or not on the shelves according to the catalogue cards. Some 'unscrupulous' readers displace important books and keep them in other shelves depriving other users. Very often, the catalogue cards remain in a haphazard manner in the card-cabinet desk. When the readers seek their help in addressing the problems, some of the library personnel straightaway deny to help them.

Again, the library workers inside the reading rooms gossip among themselves loudly and create disturbances for the readers. The users do not get remedy to the problem even after lodging complaints to the library administration repeatedly, many of the readers have alleged.

Even some of the students practise private tuition inside the reading rooms. But the library administration does not take necessary measures to stop the trend.

However, when contacted, Prof Obaidur Rahman Pramanick, Administrator of the library, he said that the management of the library are aware of some of the problems. "Efforts are on to solve the problems of the library including up-gradation of the library", he added.

Tk 4 lakh contraband destroyed

UNB, Moulvibazar

BDR battalion of Srimongol destroyed Indian contraband goods worth about Tk 4 lakh recently, seized during the last one month.

The goods seized while being smuggled into the country include huge bidi, two kgs of hemp, 79 bottles of phensidyl and 23 bottles of wine. The goods were destroyed on September 4 in presence of Upazila Nirbahi Officer and local journalists.

Meanwhile, the BDR jawans during their raids from January to August this year seized Indian goods worth over Tk 66.16 lakh while being smuggled into the

country and Bangladeshi goods worth Tk 18,931 while being smuggled out to India.

Another message from Kurigram adds: Narcotics Control Department in separate drives here seized 3.25 kg of hemp and 21 bottles of phensidyl syrup recently.

Acting on a tip-off, they raided the house of Nurul Islam of Bhadrpara in Ulipur upazila and seized one-kg of hemp and 11 bottles of phensidyl and in another raid at the house of Mahub of Kazir Chak village in the same upazila recovered two kgs of hemp on August 27.

Massive programme to grow more fruits

BSS, Thakurgaon

The government has taken up a massive programme to grow more fruits of different kinds with an aim to meet national demand and to earn foreign currency by exporting fruits, horticulturists here said.

To implement the programme, the Directorate of Agriculture Extension (DAE) will set up 100 mango orchards in five upazilas of the district (20 in each upazila).

DAE has distributed 5,100 'Amrapali' variety of mango saplings among 100 marginal and small farmers this year to set up mango orchards. Each farmer planted 50 saplings on 15 decimals of land, a DAE source said.

The 'Amrapali' variety of mango is a high quality variety which can be planted in a gap of 10 to 12 feet only. The trees require less space in relation to other varieties due to their bushy nature. A total of 1,600 sap-

lings can be planted on one hectare of land and the production is 15 to 16 metric tons per hectare.

Horticulturists say the characteristics of 'Amrapali' is that there is no 'on' and 'off' year like other varieties. So, each and every year 'Amrapali' bears fruits. The fruit is medium in size with a weight of about 150 to 200 grams. A mango contains 70 per cent flesh and 30 per cent stone. Its percentage of sweetness is 23.3. It is a late variety which ripens along with 'Fazli' in the Bengali months of Ashar and Sraban. It requires five months from flowering to ripening.

Abdus Salam, Deputy Director, DAE told that besides setting up of mango orchards, the directorate has also taken up programmes to produce other fruits like Amra, Shaddock, Safeda, Kamaranga and other citrus fruits.

Smuggling syndicate active in border areas of N zone

UNB, Dinajpur

The smuggling syndicate of northern zone including Hili area is amassing massive firearms and explosives and geared up its trading in the border areas.

The arms and explosives coming from the other side of the border include pistols, revolvers, and different types of gun, bombs and bomb-making splinter's, which are being sold to the terrorists in massive scale.

The syndicate also recently shifted their sale centres from Bogra commercial town to Hill of Dinajpur, Panchbibi and Sadar upazilas of Joypurhat. Besides, huge arms and explosives are coming every day from Godagari of Rajshahi, Fulbari, Birampur, Parbatipur, Ghoraghat, Khanpur of Dinajpur Burimari of Lalmonirhat border areas.

A large number of unemployed youths has been engaged to carry the arms from border areas to various destinations in cars, jeeps and other vehicles in connivance with some dishonest law enforcers, locals alleged.