

NEWS SNAPS

Imported cloths worth Tk 7 lakh looted

UNB, Comilla Robbers looted imported cloths worth Tk 7 lakh from a container in Chouddagram upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Thursday. Police said the robbers intercepted the Dhaka-bound container from Chittagong Port placing a truck at Uttar Beriyara at dead of night and took control of the steering. They stabbed the container helper and tied up hand sand legs of the driver and drove it towards Dhaka, forcing them to get down in an isolated place. On information, police Saturday seized the abandoned container from near Kanchpur police outpost in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj district. A case was filed with the Chouddagram thana.

56 firearms seized: 220 arrested

UNB, Khagrachhari Police, BDR and army in separate drives in last two months recovered 56 firearms, mostly in abandoned condition, and arrested 220 people including nine enlisted terrorists. The seized arms include four rifles one SMG, one SLR, 27 guns, two revolvers, one pistol, 8 LG four pipe guns and eight other firearms, 1,184 bullets and cartridges and 100 Indian chocolate bombs. They also executed 101 warrants during the period. Locals said in absence of stringent coordinated drives most of the terrorists with sophisticated arms could not be netted. The voters also expressed doubts whether they would be able to cast their votes when the terrorists are moving almost openly brandishing arms in many areas. Police Super of the district said the special drive to recover illegal arms and arrest the terrorists would continue to hold the upcoming election in free and fair manner.

Youth strangled

UNB, Jessore A youth was strangled at Ramnagar Kamalpur in Sadar upazila Tuesday night. Police said the assailants killed Ripon, 20, son of late Abul Khair, after kidnapping him from his uncle's house at Khorichadanga on gunpoint. On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Jessore General Hospital for autopsy. Ripon had been living with his maternal uncle for last six years after his father was killed by the people of outlawed party in 1995.

Arsenic detected in waters of C'nawabganj

UNB, Chapainawabganj Arsenic beyond permissible limit has been detected in the underground waters in three upazilas of the district. A local NGO after testing waters of 7,303 tubewells in 160 villages of Sadar, Nachol and Shibganj upazilas found contamination in 2,285 tubewells. The survey report said the presence of arsenic beyond tolerable limit was detected in waters of all the tubewells of Nichudhumi village in Sadar upazila. According to the report dangerous level of arsenic contamination was detected in the villages of Behula, Behula Dhipara, Behula Mufapara, Munsepur, Baliadanga, Daipukur, Hindupara, Fakirpara, Maharajpur, Simtola, Dolpara, Namopara, Tikra, Tilakchandpur, Chowdhuritol, Goaltuli, Lalapara, Natun Bazar, Haldarpara, Laxmipur, Bakulpara, Chunakhali, Delpara, Chakbaharam, and Fakir Mohanpara in Sadar upazila. The same level of arsenic contamination was also detected in tubewell waters of Dadanchak, Paikartala and Jaminpur villages of Shibganj upazila.

Unauthorised structures demolished

UNB, Barisal Local river port authorities demolished 63 illegal structures on the bank of the river Kirtankhola on the first day of their demolition drive recently. The eviction drive, led by a first class magistrate, started from the port road area and it continued throughout the day without any resistance from the encroachers. A port official said the encroachers have invaded some two acres of land of the river over the years and built 223 structures there. He said eviction notice was earlier served on each owner of these illegal structures, but they failed to respond in time. "The drive will continue until the demolition of the last structure," he said. After the eviction, he said, an embankment would be built on the riverbank and trees would be planted on it as per the afforestation programme of the authorities.

Training course for newsmen

UNB, Patuakhali A weeklong training course on management and skill development of the editors and news editors of local dailies concluded at the office of Mass-line Media Centre here on Sunday. A total of 15 editors and news editors from different local dailies in Barisal division took part in the training course, which began on September 10. Various matters relating to ethics and policy of newspaper, problems of local dailies, nature of human rights in Bangladesh, human rights development and democracy and role of newspaper were discussed. Dr Golam Rahman, Professor of Mass-communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University, was present as chief guest at the concluding session and distributed certificates among the trainees. Presided over by Meer Sahidul Alam, the function was also addressed by Rezaul Haq Shahin, Syed Ferooz Hossain and Nusrat Jahan Moni.

Freshers' orientation course

UNB, Khulna An orientation of the freshers of Science and Technology School and Management and Business School of Khulna University was held at its second academic building on Sunday. Vice Chancellor Prof Jafar Reza Khan was present on the occasion as chief guest while deans of the various faculties and heads of different departments spoke. The VC stressed on the cooperation of all including students to ensure congenial academic atmosphere on the campus and acquire knowledge while studying in the university. He called upon the students to build them as worthy citizens of the country and engage themselves for welfare of the downtrodden after acquiring knowledge properly.

Woman killed in road accident

UNB, Munshiganj A middle-aged man was killed in a road accident at Masurgaon on Dhaka-Mawa road on Wednesday. The victim was identified as Manmohon Mondal, 50, hailed from Bhuiuchil village in Srinagar upazila. Mondal died instantly when he got down from a bus and was crushed under the wheels of another speeding bus. Police later arrested the driver of the Gopalganj-bound bus coming from Dhaka.

Eyes of youth gouged

UNB, Madaripur Eyes of a youth were gouged by some hoodlums at Thengamara village in Kalkini upazila recently. Police said the terrorists gouged out both the eyes of Liton Fakir, 25, son of Noor Mohammad, at dead of night on Wednesday over a quarrel. Police arrested five people in connection with the incident after a case was filed including 11 people.

Life term for 3 rapists

UNB, Pirojpur A special court on women and child repression sentenced three people to life term imprisonment for raping a housewife. The court also fined the convicted, Ataf Hossain, Sultan Bari and Shaheed Hawdar, Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment. They raped a housewife Monju Begum injuring her husband Awal Kazi at their house at village Bhairampur in Sadar upazila on January 19 last year, said the prosecution. Examining the case records and witnesses, the Judge M Ainul Haq found them guilty and handed down the judgement.

3287 electricity lines disconnected

UNB, Rajshahi Power Development Board (PDB) has disconnected the electricity line of 3,287 subscribers under Rajshahi zone for keeping their bills outstanding for long. Official sources said the dues to these subscribers stood Tk 3.5 crore till Wednesday. The PDB has taken the action under its crash programme after the subscribers of eight districts including Bogra, Pabna and Rajshahi districts failed to pay their bills within the fixed time.

Rat killing drive begins

UNB, Gazipur Agriculture Extension Department began the rat killing drive in the district on Wednesday. Deputy Director Ali of DAE, Gazipur Zone Aggar Miah attended the inaugural function. Among others, Dr Mohammad Imdadul Haq, Habibur Rahman and Bazur Rahman were present.

52pc cast votes in 3 hill dists despite hartal

UNB, Dhaka

About 52 per cent of the voters in three hill districts of greater Chittagong cast their votes in the October 1 polls despite 48-hour hartal enforced by the Parbatiya Chhattagram Janasanghati Samity. In Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban constituencies, there are a total of 811,558 voters, both male and female. Of them, some 427,059 voters franchised their rights showing the percentage 52.62 per cent.

PCJSS called a 48-hour-long strike and voter turnout on the second day of the hartal in the tribal areas showed poor. Voter turnouts in other centres were reportedly well.

Some 188,332 votes were cast in Khagrachhari while 137,447 in Rangamati and 101,280 in Bandarban.

In Khagrachhari, BNP candidate Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan came out successful bagging 93,861 votes. His nearest rival was Kalparanjai Chakma of Awami League who

secured 55,309 votes.

In Rangamati, Moni Swapan Dewan of BNP clinched the top position hooking 68,744 votes and his nearest rival Dipankar Talukdar of Awami League bagged 51,002.

Results of Bandarban constituency are being collected by helicopter from remote centres as those are delayed due to inclement weather.

Results of five out of 144 centers were not available at the EC. Bir Bahadur of AL was leading with 39068 votes followed by Ma Ma Ching of BNP with 38,609 votes.



A child buys chanachur, a kind of snack, from a vendor in Jhenidah district. The vendors attired in colourful dress are popular with children.

25 killed in eight dists in separate incidents

BSS, Kurigram

At least 25 people were killed and 112 others seriously injured in different incidents recently in eight districts of the northern region.

According to police sources, Afil Mia, 20, was killed on the spot and two others injured seriously when a truck hit a van at Laldighi point of Rangpur-Bogra highway in Pirganj upazila.

On the same day, banana trader Joynal Abedin, 35, was crushed under a minibus at Kawnia in Kurigram-Rangpur road.

Housewife Morsheda, 23, wife of Abul Kalam of Charcharia village in Gaibandha was killed on the spot when she threw herself under a running train near Mohimaganj station.

Seven persons were killed and 30 others seriously injured when a Dinajpur-bound night coach hit a loaded truck from behind at Chapriganj point on Bogra-Rangpur highway in Gobindaganj upazila. The deceased were Shaiful Islam, 30, Matiar Rahman, 32, and Abdul Kader, 30.

Three persons Shamsul Alam, 45, Hasen Ali, 36 and Babu, 28, were killed on the spot and 15 others were injured when a minibus hit a standing microbus at Shimultola point of Kurigram-Rangpur road.

Hasmat, 22, was crushed under a coach at Mokamtola area of Rangpur-Bogra highway in Bogra

district. Another young man Bhushan Majumder, 26, was killed on the spot when he was struck by a bus at the same area.

Superintending Engineer of LGED Tofazzal Hossain, 50, his wife Saleha Begum, 45, and driver Harun, 35, were seriously injured near Dhnat turn of Bogra when a coach hit their jeep.

One unknown person was killed on the spot and seven others were injured when a truck hit them at Tishigari of Bogra.

Two unknown persons were killed on the spot near Basherbridge point in Singra when a stone loaded truck fell into a ditch and Zillur Rahman, 32, was crushed under a bus while he was walking along through the road in Natore.

Seven persons were killed and 20 others injured when a bus fell down into a roadside ditch at Khalilpur Natun Bazar and 28 persons including women and children were injured when another bus fell into a roadside ditch at Shahpur point in Chatmohar in Pabna. One person was killed and seven others were injured following a head-on-collision between a coach and a microbus at Sahebganj in Sirajganj.

Hanif, 40, was killed when he fell down from top of a bus and another Mizanur Rahman, 18, was crushed under a truck in two separate accidents in separate places in Naogaon district.

Fishermen of Narail face manifold problems

UNB, Narail

Hundreds of fishermen of haor and beel areas of the district have been facing manifold problems due to various reasons including price hike of fishing appliances and scarcity of fish.

The vast areas of beels and haors were once famous for different varieties of fish but the situation has now changed and fish scarcity has turned acute. The ever-increasing accumulation of silts during the flood and unplanned

irrigation projects has aggravated the situation.

On the other hand, indiscriminate fishing by the non-professional fishermen is posing a threat to the fish resources. The fishermen alleged that the non-professionals have made their monopoly over the entire profession driving many of them out of profession.

They said there is a provision to lease out the haors and beels and jalmahals to the genuine fishermen, but the system now exists only in papers except in some rare cases.

In major cases, they alleged, the influential people get lease of water bodies who again in collusion with the vested groups give sub-lease to some fake fishermen.

They also alleged that the non-professional fishermen catch fish by force and even take away their nets and other appliances.

They urged the authorities concerned to probe into the matter and take appropriate measures so that they could continue their age-old occupation.

AL debacle in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Awami League has suffered a serious setback in the just concluded 8th parliamentary polls in greater Sylhet district, which was considered a stronghold of the party.

The party had 14 seats in the last parliament. On the other hand, the Jatiya Party had three and the BNP had two seats. This time, Awami League got 4 seats in Habiganj, two in Sunamganj and one in Moulvibazar totalling the number at seven. It failed to get a single seat in Sylhet, where there are six seats.

However, stalwarts like Abdus Samad Azad, SAMS Kibria, Suranjit Sengupta, Dewan Farid Gazi and Abdus Shahid have won.

BNP stalwart M Saifur Rahman in Moulvibazar-3, comprising Moulvibazar Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas, had a landslide victory against his rival Awami League's central leader Azizur Rahman by a margin of over 13,000 votes. M Saifur Rahman also defeated AL's AMA Muhit in the prestigious Sylhet-1 constituency with a margin of over

40,000 votes. AL's former whip Abdus Shahid managed his victory in Moulvibazar-4 against the party rebel Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury alias Mujib Chowdhury. Abdus Samad Azad defeated 4-party alliance nominee Shahinur Pasha Chowdhury in Sunamganj-3. Another AL stalwart Suranjit Sengupta regained his native constituency Sunamganj-2.

But Suranjit tasted defeat in Sunamganj 1 against Nozir Hossain of BNP. District BNP President Fazlul Haque Aspia managed to retain his seat, Sunamganj-4, against Awami League's Dewan Shamsul Abedin with a margin of over 10,000 votes.

In Sylhet-2, BNP's Ilyas Ali got an easy sail against the AL's immediate past MP Shah Azizur Rahman with margin of 45,000 votes. BNP's Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury defeated his rival Mahmud-us-Samad Chowdhury of AL in Sylhet-3, where the gap is about 10,000. BNP's Dilder Ahmed Selim defeated the AL's Imran Ahmed in Sylhet-4 with a

margin of over 15,000 votes. Moulana Farid Uddin Chowdhury of Jamaat defeated Awami League's immediate past MP Hafiz Ahmed Chowdhury in Sylhet-5. The margin is about 22,000 votes. Awami League's Nurul Islam Nahid failed to retain his seat in Sylhet 6. He lost to independent candidate Syed Mokbul Hossain.

In Habiganj-3, Awami League stalwart SAMS Kibria defeated BNP's Abu Lais Mohammad Mubin Chowdhury by 13,000 votes. Awami League's Dewan Farid Gazi managed to retain his seat Habiganj-1, defeating Sheikh Sujat Miah of BNP. Nazmul Hassan Zahed of Awami League defeated BNP's Nurul Amin Chowdhury with a small margin in Habiganj-2. Awami League's Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid also retained his seat Habiganj-4. He defeated BNP's Syed Mohammad Faisal with a big margin of over 50,000 votes.

The results of Moulvibazar 1 and 2 are yet to be announced. Re-polling in some centres of the constituencies is needed.

Two sisters stabbed for casting vote in favour of 4-party alliance

UNB, Naogaon

Two sisters were stabbed mercilessly by their cousin at Biswaspur village in Patnitala upazila on Monday for casting their votes violating the family decision.

Witnesses said Babul stabbed Jahanara, 25, and Rehana, 18, indiscriminately as they cast their votes in favour of four-party alliance candidate ignoring the instruction of the family members. They were asked to cast their votes in favour of Awami League candidate.

Both the sisters were admitted to local health complex in a critical condition. The condition of Jahanara was stated to be critical.

15,000 affected by seasonal diseases

UNB, Kishoreganj

Seasonal diseases, especially water-bore diarrhoea and viral fever, broke out in the district affecting around 15,000 people in last one month.

According to local physicians, scarcity of pure drinking water and consumption of adulterated food and were the main causes of diarrhoeal diseases.

A large number of people, affected by diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases, were treated in upazila health complexes, sub-centres and hospitals.

Seasonal viral fever affected people, mainly minor children and women, were also getting admission in local hospitals and clinics in a large scale.

Symptoms of this viral fever, according to doctors, are high temperature, body pain and acute headache.

Despite present situation, sources said, the diarrhoea and viral fever combating operations are being hampered due to lack of sufficient supply of essential medicines.

Officials urged higher authorities to ensure necessary supply of medicines and advising people to be more careful in taking food and water.

Four with firearms arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four persons were held with firearms and cocktails at Chandonaish in the district here in the afternoon on Sunday.

A huge contingent of district police led by Additional SP (South) Banoj Kumar Majumder, in a sudden raid, held four persons with two LGs, 23 cocktails and two cartridges from Kusumpura village of Pashchim (west) Harala union in the thana at around 1.30 pm. The arrested were identified as Mowla Md Salim alias 'Dari' (bearded) Salim, 28, Sarwar Kamal, 21, Touhidul Islam, 25, and Didarul Alam, 20. They were suspected to be Shibir activists who were carrying the arms to create violence at polling centers.

Cash, gold ornaments looted

UNB, Narayanganj

Armed robbers stormed the house of a businessman at Shashongaon in Fatullah upazila and looted cash and gold ornaments on Wednesday.

Police said the armed bandits swooped on the house of Badrudin Ahmed and looted Tk 55,000 and 22 tolas of gold ornaments. A case was filed.

14 lose security money in Laxmipur

UNB, Laxmipur

Fourteen out of 20 candidates in three constituencies of the district have lost their security money in Monday's national election.

They are Abdur Razzak (BSD, 11-party), Abu Sayeed Mohon (JSD), Mahmudur Rahman Mahmud (JP-E), Muhammad Nazrul Islam (Workers Party, 11-party) and Mahmudul Haque (independent) in Laxmipur-1 constituency.

Abul Kashem Choyal (JP-E), A H

M Jahir Hossain Hakim (PNP, 11-party), Kazi Jamsed Kabir Baki Billah (JP-M), Muhammad Jasimuddin Advocate (independent), Muhammad Rafiqul Haider Chowdhury (JSD), Muhammad Ruhul Amin (independent), Muhammad Shahidullah BSC (independent) and Ruhul Amin Patwari (independent) in Laxmipur-2 constituency.

Muhammad Noman (JP-E) is the only one candidate who has lost the security money in the laxmipur-3 constituency.

Selling of substandard pesticides continues in northern dists

UNB, Kurigram

Unabated selling of substandard pesticides in northern region, including Kurigram, has started taking its toll on land fertility.

A section of dishonest dealers, defying government ban, are selling the low quality pesticides dealing a severe blow to the environment apart from affecting public health.

A Swedish Research Institution in its report cautioned about long-term adverse effects of using such pesticides on croplands. It said although European countries have stopped using such pesticides, they were channeling those to the developing countries like Bangladesh.

Agriculture officials here said International Pesticide Action Network (PAN) banned a good

number of brands of pesticide like Heptaclore, Dymucron, Nogos, DDT, Toxafen, Novacron, Chloroden, Pliarcron, Vitacron, Benicron, Monocot Fox, Monotaf and Ezodrin nearly a decade ago as it found those deleterious to the environment. But these items are available in the northern region.

Agriculture Extension Department was learnt to have issued a circular warning the dealers and sellers of taking stern action for selling these banned items, but of no avail.

An area sales manager of a pesticide company, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the present stock of banned pesticide of Singenta Company is unlikely to be finished before 2005.

6,000 blacksmiths of Kishoreganj in misery

UNB, Kishoreganj

About 6,000 blacksmiths are passing their days in great hardship in different areas of Kishoreganj district due to price hike of necessary inputs and lack of marketing facilities.

Generation after generation they are leading their livelihood by producing and selling iron-made products, including axe, knife, kitchen-knife, agri-inputs, pins and urgent materials essential for daily life.

The blacksmith community mainly live in different places of Hossainpur, Pakundia, Tarail, Karimganj, Itna, Austraganr, Mitamain, Nikli, Bhoirah, Kuliarchar, Kutadi and Sadar upazilas.

In recent time, sources said,

prices of raw materials, mainly iron, pushed them in great trouble in producing their items. Moreover, available of imported products with comparatively low cost reduce the demand of indigenous products.

Lack of marketing facilities also barred them from getting fair price.

A large number of blacksmiths in these areas already left their forefathers' profession and turned into day labourers leading a miserable life.

Local elite opined if they are provided with motivational training programme and technological support with loan facilities, they could change forefathers' profession in a new dimension and make their life better.



The Business Development Conference 2001 of Golden Life Insurance Ltd was held recently at the Mymensingh divisional office. A K M Mostafizur Rahman, managing director, addresses the conference as chief guest. M Monirul Alam, additional managing director, Sushanta Pramanik, EVR, and Md S Alam Chowdhury, JVP and divisional in-charge of Mymensingh division, are also seen in the picture.