

NEWS SNAPS

JCD activists attack houses of AL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

A group of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists on Thursday attacked the houses of Awami League activists and Hindu community in Netrakona town.

The unruly JCD men attacked the house of municipality commissioner Ganesh Sarkar in Nagra area, local people said. Witnesses said the JCD men also set fire on a bus, owned by Ranjan, an Awami League supporter, in the town.

2 JCD activists injured

UNB, *Rangamati*

Two sons of district BNP president Nazimuddin Ahmed were injured in an attack allegedly by Awami League activists at Tabalchhari Bazaar Tuesday night.

Locals said the AL activist stormed the house of Nazimuddin Ahmed after a rumor spread that BNP workers attacked the house of AL leader and Municipal Chairman Habibur Rahman Habib. They beat up Nazimuddin's two sons Suman, 27, and Shipon, 25, both JCD workers, and ransacked the house. The injured were admitted to local hospital.

Body of youth recovered

UNB, *Natore*

The body of a slain youth which was buried under the floor of a house at Uttar Baragachha of the town was recovered Tuesday, 10 days after his missing.

The deceased was identified as Swadhin, 30, a businessman. Swadhin, son of Zillur Rahman of the same area, was hacked to death allegedly by his friends as he tried to recollect the money he lent to them, police said. The killers buried him under the floor of one Kalu's house. Police arrested Swadhin's three friends, Rony, Shahidul and Uzzal, while Kalu went into hiding. Rony, who has already confessed everything, called Swadhin out of his home on September 23 giving assurance to repay the money he lent to his friends two months back, police said.

Man slaughtered

UNB, *Khulna*

A man was slaughtered at a hut at the police line in the city Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Enamul Quader alias Babu, a shrimp trader of Kazipara in the city. Police said some unidentified miscreants swooped on his house at the police line at the dead of night and slaughtered when he was asleep. Police said dispute over shrimp farm might be the cause behind his death. A case was filed with local police against five people.

Tk 2 cr smuggled goods seized

UNB, *Dhaka*

Coast guards arrested eight pirates and seized huge smuggled goods worth about Tk 2 crore from coastal areas in Chittagong and Mongla port areas in last one month.

The haul included 1,250 kg of cumin seed, 7,800 kg of sugar, 51 cylinder liners, 275 pair of hand gloves, 4,700 multi-colour posters, 27 colour TV sets, nine VCDs, six audio CDs, 7000 sheets of sticker and a 200-meter mooring rope.

The recovered goods also included 1,30,332 liters of furnace oil, 8,000 feet of fishing net, timbers and 1,640 copper pipe. They also recovered one single-barrel shotgun during the period, according to a Bangladesh Coast Guard press release.

Drug addicts rising

BSS, *Chapainawabganj*

Number of drug addicts is rising in an alarming rate in the district town these days.

The drugs including heroin, hemp, opium, country made liquors, phensidyl are easily available in the town. The guardians are worried about the quick spread of the addiction.

Road development schemes implemented

BSS, *Barisal*

Two road development projects were implemented in Barisal town at a cost of Taka 1.30 crore during the last financial year.

According to an official source, the projects include construction of BM College Road and Janaki Shingh Road-Abdur Serniatat College Road. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented projects.

43 arms recovered

UNB, *Natore*

Some 43 arms and ammunition were recovered and 1,111 people arrested from the district during the ongoing special drive began on July 17.

Police also recovered 2,748 chocolate bombs, 28 cocktails and 37 cartridges during the drives. The firearms are six pistols, three revolvers, four shutter-guns, one home made gun, 29 pipe-guns and 13 sharp weapons. Of the arrested people, only 13 were listed terrorists.

Housewife gives birth to triplets

UNB, *Rangpur*

A housewife gave birth to triplets at a private clinic here recently.

The mother and the newborns two sons and one daughters are in good health, clinic source said. The mother, Salma Akhtar, 40, wife of Mojibar Rahman, hailed from Dimla upazila of Nilphamari district, had five other children.

One killed by insane man

UNB, *Chandpur*

A man was killed and five others were injured allegedly by an insane man at Sachar in Kochua upazila on Saturday.

Police said Atush Miah, an insane man of Sachar swooped on Oli Miah, 35, and hacked him to death when he was saying his prayer at the local Chanpara Mosque. He also attacked and injured four other devotees at the same time and while fleeing the scene and stabbed a woman outside the mosque. The injured Shafiq, 9, Abdur Rahim, 70, Abdul Khaleq, 40, Jinnat Ali, 55, and Momtaz Begum, 40, were rushed to Daudkandi upazila health complex in a critical condition.

3 including Jubo League leader held

UNB, *Munishiganj*

Three people, including a Jubo League leader, were arrested along with arms in separate drives in Sadar upazila recently.

Police said they arrested Jubo League leader Hossain and his accomplice Liton from Panchgharia Kandi in the town along with a revolver. In another drive, they arrested notorious terrorist Hanif from Kasba village with a loaded LG. Another report from Naogaon says, police arrested four fugitives and recovered a shutter gun from Patnitala upazila during the last week. On information, police recovered the loaded gun from near Gyanpur Bazaar in Ghosnagar union. In another drive, police arrested Afzal Hossain wanted in a robbery case while Lutfar, Isahaque and Solaiman wanted in a child and woman repression case from village Nazipur.

1,165 arrested in Kurigram

BSS, *Kurigram*

Kurigram police have so far arrested 1,165 people including 11 listed terrorist during the on going special drive. According to control room, police of all nine thanas conducted the drive and arrested these persons in connection with different cases. However, police could not recover any illegal firearms.

Eight arrested by BDR

BSS, *Naogaon*

BDR posted in Naogaon border outpost arrested eight persons on Wednesday from a bus at Hapania Bazar on Naogaon-Rajshahi Highway.

According to official source, BDR recovered two revolvers and four bullets from their possession. The arrested persons were identified as Khairul Alam, Labu, Hasan Mahmood, M Mamoon, Faisal Alam, Mahfuzur Rahman, Awoalad Hossain Rocket, Razeeb Shahand and driver Mithu. BDR handed over the arrested persons with seized articles to Sadar Thana Police.

Six Indians arrested

BSS, *Satkhira*

The members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested six persons from Tujulpur area in sadar upazila while they were trying to enter into Bangladesh recently.

According to BDR sources, the BDR members of Jhaudanga Border Outpost (BOP) arrested six persons including two women from Tujulpur area while they were illegally trying to enter into Bangladesh without valid papers. The arrested were identified as Pryolal Sakar, Shyamal Kumar Sarkar, Nomita Rani Sarkar, Kulsum Begum of Barisal, Laxmon Halder of Gopalganj and Idris Ali of Satkhira district. Later, they were handed over to the police. A case was filed with Sadar Thana Police in this connection.

AL suffers debacle in greater Pabna

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, *Sirajganj*

The Awami League has suffered a serious setback in the just concluded 8th parliamentary polls in greater Pabna district.

The BNP-led 4-party alliance bagged six seats out of seven in Sirajganj and four out of five seats in Pabna district.

In Siranganj, Awami League stalwart Mohammad Nasim, however, managed a seat, Sirajganj 1, comprising Kazipur upazila, by bagging 1,01981 votes. But he tasted defeat in Sirajganj 2, comprising Sadar upazila, and Sirajganj 3, comprising Raiganj and Tarash upazilas.

The Awami League had nine seats from the greater district in the seventh parliament. On the other hand, the BNP had three seats. This time Awami League got two seats one each in Pabna 4 (Ishardi-Atgaria) and Sirajganj-1.

In the prestigious Sadar constituency (Sirajganj 2), BNP leader Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku defeated AL stalwart Mohammad Nasim, polling 1,38,940 votes. Nasim, on the other hand, bagged 1,09,529 votes.

Abdul Mannan of BNP defeated AL's Mohammad Nasim in Sirajganj 3 by bagging 1,27,780 votes. Nasim

polled 97,610 votes.

In Sirajganj 4, M Akbar Ali of BNP won, securing 1,30,241 votes. In Sirajganj 5, BNP's Justice Mozammel Huq defeated AL's Abdul Latif Biswas.

In Sirajganj 6, Manjur Quader of BNP defeated AL's Abu Bakar Siddiqui. And in Sirajganj 7, M A Matin of JP (N-F) defeated AL's Chayan Islam.

In Pabna 1, Matiur Rahman Nizamai of Jaamat-e-Islami defeated former state minister for information Abu Sayeed. Nizami bagged 1,35,982 votes while Sayeed got 98,113 votes.

In Pabna 2, BNP's Selim Reza Habib defeated AL's Mirza Jalil while BNP's Anwarul Islam defeated AL's Makkub Hossain in Pabna 3.

In Pabna 4, AL's Shamsur Rahman Sharif defeated BNP's Sirajul Islam Sardar. In Pabna 5, Abdus Sobhan of Jaamat-e-Islami defeated AL's Waziuddin Khan.

Meanwhile, BNP central leader Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku exchanged greetings with his rival in Sirajganj 2 Mohammad Nasim on Tuesday and sought co-operation. Tuku also exchanged greetings with district AL leaders. The AL leaders wished him good luck.

14 lose security money in Barisal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Fourteen out of 27 candidates in 5 constituencies of Barisal district have lost their security money in October 1 national election.

Result of the Barisal-6 (Bakerganj) constituency remained undeclared as voting in 9 centres of the constituency were suspended for several reasons.

Workers Party leader and 11-party candidate from Barisal-2 (Babuganj-Uzirpur) constituency Rashed Khan Menon is among others who lost security money.

UNB from Noakhali reports: Thirty-nine candidates in six constituencies of the district have lost their security money in Monday's general election.

Shibu Prashad Chandra, Tajul Islam and Dr Abdul Wahab lost their security in Noakhali-1, Shamol Kanti Dey, Harunur Rashid, AKM Selim, Golam Kabir, Adv Karim Hossain, Kazi M Rafiqullah, Zahir Ahmed Ratan, Mosarraf Hossain Miron, Mustafizur Rahman and Khurshid Alam in Noakhali-2 and Mahbulul Haque, Abdul Wahab, Nurul Amin Bhuiyan and Salauddin Kamran in Noakhali-3.

Besides, Abdul Wadud

Chowdhury, Mosaddekur Rahman, Daliler Rahman and Hossain Ahad lost their security money in Noakhali-4, Abdur Razzak, Golam Moulana, Bikash Chandra Sarkar and Mizanur Rahman in Noakhali-5, Anwar Azim, Anwar Hossain, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Ishrajur Rahman, Gautam Chowdhury, Saifuddin Ahmed, Mohiuddin, Jalal Ahmed, Mozammel Haque, Giasuddin, Abdul Shahid, Giasuddin Master, M Mohiuddin and Shahjahan Bhuiyan in Noakhali-6.

Another report from Kishoreganj says: A total of 21 candidates out of 38 in seven parliamentary seats of the district lost their security money. Election office sources said some of the candidates are independent, and some others from Kishak Sramik Janata League, Bangladesh Peoples Party, Jatiya Party, Democratic Republican Party, Islami Okiyo Jote, 11-party and JSD.

Another report from Patuakhali said, nine candidates from different political parties including former minister M Keramat Ali and five independent candidates lost their security money in four seats of the district.

Extensive T-aman farming programme in Kurigram

BSS, *Kurigram*

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) of Kurigram has taken up an extensive programme of cultivating Transplanted aman (T-aman) crop during the current season of 2001-2002.

According to official sources, a target of producing 2,15,600 of T-aman rice from a total of 1,13,000 hectares in all nine upazilas has been fixed this year. Of them, 1,40,120 tons of hybrid variety of T-aman rice will be produced from 62,000 hectares and 75,480 tons of local variety of T-aman rice will be produced from 51,000 hectares in the district.

The upazila-wise break-up of the fixed target for cultivation of T-aman crop is as follows: 25,884 tons of rice from 13,800 hectares in Sadar,

42,202 tons of rice from 21,400 hectares in Ulipur, 45,700 tons of rice from 23,500 hectares in Nageswari, 27,794 tons of rice from 14,300 hectares in Bhurungamari, 29,220 tons of rice from 10,500 hectares in Chilmari 12,390 tons from 7,000 hectors in Rowmari and 7,058 tons of T-aman rice from 4,400 hectares in Rajibpur upazila.

The farmers have completed plantation of T-aman seedlings on more than 80 per cent of land up to August 26. The plantation process was little hampered by drought in July and August, but heavy rainfalls of the last week of August helped farmers achieve full target of T-aman seedling plantation.

As there are no problem with supply of fertilisers and pesticides, the growers may get good production of the crop during this season.

Heart, lung diseases rise in Narail

UNB, *Narail*

Kamal Ahmed, a transport worker, wheezed on the floor of Sadar Hospital for hours two weeks ago. Waiting to consult a doctor, he sometimes talked to himself and suffered much due to chest pain.

Suffering from chronic asthma, the 35-year-old man often shouted in frustration and sometimes scolded his family members.

Kamal was a new arrival at district's crowded hospital that now sees an increasing number of town dwellers visiting its outdoor unit with complaints of respiratory problems.

Hospital sources said thousands of people, including transport workers and children, are suffering from asthma, chronic bronchitis, lung and heart diseases.

Dr Nikunja Behari Golder at the Sadar Hospital said the number of patients suffering from cough, bronchitis, chronic headache, respiratory and lung diseases has increased alarmingly due to inhalation of black smoke.

He said middle-aged women, particularly the expecting mothers and schoolchildren, are the worst

victims. "Nearly 25 per cent people of Narail are suffering from various forms of respiratory and lung ailments," Behari said.

He said the use of diluted diesel, particularly by auto-rickshaws, has marked an unusual rise in recent times due to its low price.

The black smoke of diesel-driven automobiles like trucks, buses, tempos and minibuses are polluting the environment sending suspended particulate matter (SPM) into the air. SPM causes serious harm to thoraxes and lungs of human body.

There have allegations that some unscrupulous workers of refineries are involved in diluting lead with crude petrol. Dishonest oil dealers are also doing the same thing making the situation even worse.

When asked some bus and truck drivers told that mixing of kerosene with petrol is one of the main causes of emission of black smoke from vehicles.

The use of diluted fuel in shallow tubewell engines is also contributing to the worsening air pollution.

Town dwellers deprived of basic amenities in Gopalganj

BSS, *Gopalganj*

The resident of Gopalganj Municipality are deprived of basic amenities.

Population of the municipality is increasing day by day, but the municipality authorities are not providing basic amenities to them.

Gopalganj Municipality had been established in 1976 while it was a sub-division town. After declaration of Gopalganj district, the municipality was established with a population of 92 thousand people. Now the municipality has been converted to "A" grade and geographical areas has been enlarged up to 8 squire miles with a population of 1 lakh 50 thousand.

But the facilities of a first class municipality are not being rendered to the town dwellers. Absence of proper drainage system, deplorable condition of roads, inadequate streetlights, lack of proper sanitary arrangements, ample mosquitoes, pye dogs, traffic jam and absence of recreational facilities are the main problems of the municipality which have made the lives of town dwellers miserable.

Absence of proper drainage system is a major problem in the area. The town dwellers face difficulties due to stagnation of water in drains. Maximum drains have been silted with garbage. In many areas there are no drains. During the rainy season the drains accumulate dirt and filth. It causes health hazards to the inhabitants of the town.

Mohammadpara, Vichapara, Moulavipara, Gutepara, Nabinbagh areas of the municipality are low-lying areas. Due to absence of proper maintenance and repair, most of the roads of the areas are in deplorable condition.

Cracks and holes have developed at many points of the roads.

Meanwhile, Gutepara and Nabinbagh road are in very bad shapes. Bazaar roads and Thanapara roads are in same conditions. Cracks and holes have developed at all points of the roads. Some big holes have been developed along the side of the Shishu Park and New Jail road, which have turned into a death trap for lives for years together.

Almost all the covers of drains are broken and the footpaths are generally occupied with makeshift shops. Some roads of the town are very narrow which are unfit to ply two rickshaws at a time. After a slight rainfall some of the roads become muddy and slippery.

Violation of traffic rules has become a normal affair. It creates serious traffic jam at different points of the town. It is alleged that because of increasing number of rickshaws without licence has also become serious threat to the town.

Streetlights are inadequate. The bulbs of maximum street light posts are broken or out of order for a long time. Sanitary arrangement of the town is not quite satisfactory. A few dustbins are set-up in the town, which always remain unclean.

There is no park in the town in which the children's and old fellows can pass their time.

Elite of the locality said the district administration with the help of concerned ministry can establish a park for recreation of the town dwellers on the bank of the river Modhumoti.