

NEWS SNAPS

Two killed in post-election violence

BSS, Rajbari

Two activists of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were killed in post-poll violence in two upazila of the district.

Of them, one was killed in Pangsha upazila and another in Goalandu upazila, police said. Police said Hossen Ali, 50, an activist of BNP was allegedly abducted by his rival Awami League men on Friday when he was returning home from local Machhpara market. Later, police recovered his bullet-hit body from Khoksha thana, six kilometres away from Pangsha upazila. In another incident, Goalandu police said a group of miscreants allegedly led by Awami League activist Monsur Gazi attacked Yusuf Molla's house in Dangepara area in Goalandu upazila on Wednesday. Yusuf Mollah succumbed to his injuries at Faridpur General Hospital on that day.

Move to shift exam centre protested

UNB, Gaibandha

Students of Gaibandha Government College laid siege to the DC office here Tuesday protesting the move to shift the degree subsidiary examination centre from the district to Rangpur.

They earlier brought out a procession in the town and alleged that poor students of the district would be affected if the centre was shifted to another district.

Terrorists coming out of their hideouts

UNB, Jessore

As the election is over, the listed terrorists and identified smugglers who went into hiding during the countrywide combing operation have started coming out of their hideouts.

Locals said the terrorists wanted in murder, rape, extortion, arms and smuggling cases are now moving around in many areas of the district brandishing arms since October 3. They are also seen in bordering Benapole port area, Chowgachha, Sharsha and Jhikargachha upazila headquarters. Meanwhile, police arrested a listed terrorist, Asgar Ali, 30, of village Kagajpukur in Benapole upazila as he was seriously injured while making bombs. His two arms were blown up in the explosion. He had fled to India before the election and returned home after the election.

12 peace rallies in an upazila of Comilla

UNB, Comilla

In the wake of post-election violence, newly elected BNP MP Redwan Ahmed from Comilla-6 (Chandina) constituency has launched a mass contact programme in his constituency.

He has attended at least 12 peace rallies across the upazila since the last week's national election. Addressing the rallies, the BNP lawmaker alleged that a vested quarter was out to destroy the existing communal harmony in the upazila after the Oct 1 election and warned the trouble-mongers of stern action. He urged the Hindu community to celebrate the Durga Puja with traditional enthusiasm and announced to give them Tk 1 lakh from his own fund for the celebrations. A large number of people of all faiths, including leaders of the Hindu community, spontaneously joined the peace rallies.

Bagerhat dist Krishak Dal leader arrested

UNB, Bagerhat

Bagerhat district Krishak Dal president Shawkat Sheikh was arrested from Kartikdia village in sadar upazila on Sunday night.

Police said Shawkat also a former union parishad chairman is accused in a case filed for attacking and damaging houses in the village on September 18.

15 injured in a terrorist attack

UNB, Munshiganj

Some 15 people were injured in a terrorist attack on Baluakandi village in Gazaria Tuesday.

Witnesses said the miscreants led by Alam blasted cocktails and fired gunshots terrorising the villagers. Some villages were also looted. One of the injured, Kalam Member, 45, was moved to Dhaka Disabled Hospital in a critical condition while others to local hospital. Additional police have been deployed in the village as tension was mounting there.

NGO office, house of FF ransacked

UNB, Barisal

An NGO office and the house of a freedom fighter (FF) were ransacked and valuables looted in separate attacks in Gouranadi upazila on Monday-Tuesday.

Witnesses said the terrorists attacked the NGO office at Bakal in Agailzaha upazila Tuesday morning and looted its furniture. The house of freedom fighter Khalil Mazhi at Barhi was damaged by the terrorists Monday. They also looted valuables of the house. BNP cadres were blamed for the attacks.

Two listed terrorists arrested

BSS, Meherpur

A special team of army and Detective Branch of Meherpur Police arrested two listed terrorists from Tryal Village in Gangni thana.

According to DB sources, they arrested listed terrorists Shahidul Islam, 35 and Nazrul Islam, 36, with one foreign made double barrel gun and 13 rounds of ammunition. A case was lodged with Gangni thana in this connection.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

A grower carrying papaya on board a country boat to a rural market in Jamalpur to sell his produce. This year a bumper production of papaya has been achieved throughout this district. So, price of the fruit especially of green papaya is much cheaper in comparison with its price in previous years.

Continued attack on AL workers, minority people in three dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attacks on Awami League (AL) leaders and workers and the minority community continued in Jessore Pabna and Barisal districts since the October 1 national election.

UNB reports from Jessore: Some 50,000 people have virtually remained stranded in their homes as attacks on Awami League (AL) leaders and workers and the minority community continued in Keshabpur upazila of Jessore for 10 days.

Locals alleged that armed cadres of ousted BNP leader Maulana Shakhawat Hossain Bakul ransacked the houses of AL leaders, workers and Hindu families, and looted their valuables in 70 villages of the upazila, leaving 30 people injured since the election.

They said police are there in the villages, but they hardly take action against the troublemakers, resulting in re-attacks on the minorities.

Besides, the armed men were demanding toll from the villagers and assaulting them for failure to comply with their demands.

In their latest attack, the hooligans set fire to a number of grocery shops in Mogalkot Bazaar and Bakabarshi village, and a fish depot at Kana Pukurpar.

Eight cases have so far been filed with local police station and 32 people have been arrested in connection with the attacks.

A correspondent from Pabna says: Minorities in Chatmohor, Bera

and Sujanagar upazilas are reportedly being tortured and their property in many places damaged in the aftermath of the just concluded election.

Reports reaching here said political activists carried out planned attacks on the resident minority groups of Manikhat, Satbaria, Dulai and Nishchintapur in Sujanagar, Gunaigachha, Failjana and Goroli in Chatmohor and Bataala and Badherhat in Bera.

Unconfirmed reports said attackers damaged houses and looted property forcing many frightened and defenceless Hindu residents to flee the areas.

A temple was also reported to have been damaged during an attack on the minorities in Failjana village in Chatmohor upazila on Sunday night.

Some local leaders of the affected areas said Hindus living in those areas for generations were being asked to abandon their houses and apparently leave the country. Some of them alleged that many Hindu residents were being threatened with dire consequences if they didn't leave the areas soon.

Meanwhile, activists of AL and the BNP-led alliance blamed each other for the alleged threats on Hindus.

Police superintendent of Pabna Altaf Hossain Mollah said police did not receive any formal complaints regarding threats on the minorities. So it is difficult to catch anyone who might have been involved in the crime, he said.

About the report of damage to a temple in Failjana village, he said, "I have not come across any such complaints. If it were true, at least I would be one of the first ones to know. So it is not true."

He however acknowledged that miscreants carried out attacks on some residents in Chatmohor upazila soon after the election and his men were sent to the spots to tackle the problem.

UNB from Gopalganj adds: Amid continuing attacks on Awami Leaguers by the activists of the BNP-led four-party alliance, about 10 thousand people, mostly minorities of Gouranadi and Agailjhara upazilas of Barisal have taken shelter in neighbouring Gopalganj district.

People of Bakali, Nalchhira, Chandshi and Sarikal unions under Barisal-1 constituency took shelter in houses of their relatives in Suagram unions of Kotalipara upazila of Gopalganj in the last five days, locals said.

"Since the announcement of the unofficial results of October 1 general election, the 4-party men, mainly of BNP, started attacks on the AL leaders, workers and supporters, and repression on women," those who deserted their houses told newsmen.

It was also alleged that the 4-party men established a reign of terror in Gouranadi and Agailjhara forcing the AL men to leave the area.

Shibir out to recapture college hostels in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Despite appeals from the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami to workers of the party and other front organisations to remain patient and to refrain themselves from the recent capturing-sprees, activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student front of the party here have continued their desperate moves to recapture the dormitories of Chittagong College and Mohsin College, both strongholds of Shibir in Chittagong city over the years.

The principals of both the colleges along with some teachers met the Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Shahidullah Khan on Monday noon at the later's chamber in a bid to reopen the hostels of Chittagong College and Mohsin College.

The hostels of the two colleges have been closed as per government decision since July 12, last year at the backdrop of gruesome 'Bohaddarhat Carnage' which left eight persons killed including six BCL activists in broad day light allegedly by armed Shibir cadres.

During the meeting with CMP Commissioner, the two principals reportedly urged for immediate reopening of the hostels pleading that they are under 'immense pressure' from the Shibir activists, sources in the CMP told this correspondent on Tuesday.

In response, the CMP Commissioner requested the principals to bring necessary permission from the authority concerned in the government regarding reopening of the hostels saying that the police administration here have nothing to

do in this matter. "We in the past, being government servant, have only carried out the official order and will do the same in future," the Commissioner told the principals, said the sources.

The two principals had been compelled to go to meet the CMP Commissioner following continuous pressure and 'soft threats' allegedly by Shibir activists of the two institutions after the October 1 election ended, alleged some teachers of Chittagong College seeking anonymity.

Mentionable, police administration here closed the hostels of both Chittagong College and Mohsin College and erected a make-shift police camp there following the Bohaddarhat killing in July last year.

Father seeks justice for murder of daughter after rape

UNB, Dinajpur

Three doctors of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital have stained the noble profession of physicians by issuing a false certificate of death of a woman who was raped and killed.

Dr Selim Reza, Dr Kamalakanta Barman and Dr Nurul Amin face serious charge in a case filed by the victim's father while police initiated a case against the alleged killers.

But inordinate delay in the process of trial because of undue influence by the culprits worried the poor father who is under intimidation and threat on his life. Finding no alternative, he has made a fervent appeal to Justice Latifur Rahman, Chief Adviser of the caretaker government, seeking prompt justice.

Shafiuddin Ahmed, a resident of Panchagarh town and father of Farida Yasmin, 28, narrated his long ordeals to journalists at his home recently.

He said Farida, after passing BA in 1994, took a job of instructor under Uttara Development Programme (UDP), an NGO, and joined its Dinajpur Satellite Town-1 office.

"She used to support the poor family," said Shafiuddin, a peasant.

"I could not arrange her marriage because of financial problem. I contemplated to sell out all the timbers of the 'Bagan' (personal forest) to give her hand to a suitable young man. And then came the shocking report of her death," lamented the old father.

According to Shafiuddin, Manager of UDP Abdul Halim had a fancy on Farida and proposed to marry her. But she declined the proposal and at one stage she prepared to give up the job.

Some officials of UDP, requesting anonymity, told that they suspect that Abdul Halim, failing in his bid to marry Farida, raped the young woman inside the office on September 9, 1999. Two others joined him in the evil act.

As Farida threatened to take the matter to police, they strangled her and the body was hanged with a rope around her neck to give it a look of suicide. Influenced by the killers, the doctors at the government hospital issued certificate that Farida took her life by hanging.

But her father, Shafiuddin, could not believe that Farida had committed suicide. He came to Farida's office and talked to people in and around.

Shafiuddin made a petition to the court and secured permission for exhuming the body of Farida from her grave in presence of a magistrate for conducting re-examination to unearth the real cause of her death.

After 64 days of burial, the body was exhumed and examined by a forensic doctor who found the evidence of rape and strangulation.

Following that three doctors of the hospital were sued for issuing false death certificate.

They influenced the course of justice.

An undaunted Shafiuddin made a petition to President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed seeking justice.

Moved by the appeal of the poor father, the President directed the Home Ministry to take immediate and appropriate measures to redress the grievances of Shafiuddin. But no action was taken during the previous government.

Thinking that justice will be available under the caretaker government, Shafiuddin made a petition to Chief Adviser Justice Latifur Rahman. He hopes that proper justice will be done and culprits will be punished under the impartial caretaker government.