

## NEWS SNAPS

## 10 BNP activists arrested in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

Police arrested 10 BNP activists at Modan upazila in the district on Sunday night.

Police sources said, a group of agitated BNP activists engaged in a rampage and damaged about 13 shops of the minority community and Awami League supporters on Sunday evening. After getting information, police rushed to the spot and arrested them. The arrested persons are Syad, Abdullah-Al-Mamun, Mosharof Hossen, Harun-ur Rashid, Manik, Liman, Rahimuddin, Amanullah, Bashamuddin and an unidentified person.

## 'No sign of violence on minority'

BSS, *Gopalganj*

Deputy commissioner of Gopalganj Ikram Ahmed said on Saturday that there are no signs of rape, arson and looting in Agailjhara and Gournadi after the election.

Speaking at a press conference in the conference room of the district administration, he referred to newspaper reports and said there are no temporary camps in Ramsheel to provide shelter to the people who allegedly fled from the nearby Agailjhara and Gournadi areas after the election. He termed the private ETV news and others national newspaper reports in this connection as exaggerated. He said some people took shelter in their relatives' houses in Ramsheel of Kotlalipara upazila apprehending post-polls violence. He said he had already communicated with the divisional commissioner and other concerned officials to take steps for returning these people to their respective houses.

## Call to celebrate Durga Puja

BSS, *Mymensingh*

Delwar Hussain Khan Dulu MP, elected from Mymensingh Sadar in a meeting with the leading members of Hindu Community called upon them to celebrate the ensuing Durga Puja with pomp, enthusiasm and gaiety.

While talking to a delegation of the Hindu Community Dulu said that the Muslim community of this area will fully cooperate the Hindu Community to celebrate their greatest religious festival. The Muslims were always friendly and cooperative during the Hindu festival. He also said Mymensingh is a Hindu majority area. Members of Muslim community always rather enjoyed Hindu celebration during function. He warned the anti-social elements and said stern action would be taken if any anti-communal propaganda is made. After discussion with Dulu the Puja Utjagan Committee has decided to celebrate the puja with pomp and enthusiasm.

## State minister felicitated

BSS, *Mymensingh*

The leaders of Mymensingh district BNP felicitated AK M Mosharrar Hussain, President of Mymensingh District BNP and Managing Editor of Dainik Dinkal on his appointment as a state minister in the newly formed cabinet.

In their separate statements, they expressed the hope that Mosharrar would be able to fulfill the expectations and aspirations of the people of Mymensingh. Those who issued statements included Delwar Hussain Khan MP, Manjurul Huque Manju, Advocate Anwarul Aziz Tutul, former MPs A F M Nazrul Huda and Afzal H Khan.

## RAKUB to distribute loan among farmers

UNB, *Thakurgaon*

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has set a target to disburse Tk 19.75 crore in Thakurgaon in the current fiscal (2001-2002).

On the other hand, the bank has planned to realise outstanding loan of Tk 16.47 crore from the farmers. RAKUB, through its 15 branches, will distribute the loan for pisciculture, cattle and poultry farming, irrigation and poverty alleviation. Some Tk 2.75 crore has already been distributed among the farmers during the first three months.

## 10-man Satkhira development body

BSS, *Satkhira*

A ten-member Satkhira District Development Coordination Committee has been formed at a meeting held at the office of Jamaat-e-Islami Satkhira district branch on Friday.

The meeting was presided over by the president of the district BNP and former minister M Mansur Ali. Five newly elected MPs of the district were present in the meeting. President of the district BNP Advocate M Mansur Ali and Amir of Satkhira district Jamaat-e-Islami Principal Zzzatullah have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of the District Development Coordination Committee. Other members of the committee are Principal Abdul Khaleque MP (Jamaat), Moulana Riasat Ali MP (Jamaat), Habibul Islam Habib MP (BNP), Kazi Alauddin MP (Jatiya Party N-P), Gazi Nazrul Islam MP (Jamaat), Syed Iftekhar Ali, Secretary District BNP Muhaddes Abdul Khaleque and Lutfar Rahman.

## Body of young housewife recovered

UNB, *Narayanganj*

The body of a young housewife was recovered from her house at Shimrail in Shiddhirganj thana Monday.

The deceased was identified as Fatema Begum, 23, wife of Rahimuddin Bhuiyan. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to the morgue for autopsy. A case was filed. In another incident, Billal, 20, an alleged rapist of two sisters, surrendered to a court on Tuesday as police arrested his father Abdur Rahim and brother Ismail on Sunday. Billal and his seven associates allegedly raped two sisters at Mashdair Gudaraghat on Saturday. Police also arrested Razib, 18, in this connection.

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## Three of a family sustain burn injuries

UNB, *Naogaon*

Three members of a family sustained severe burn injuries as assailants threw acid on them in the municipality area early Sunday over a land dispute.

The victims Jahangir Alam, his wife Selina Banu and their four-year daughter Tisha were admitted to the Sadar Hospital. Condition of Tisha was stated to be critical. Family sources said, the assailants, led by Jahangir's cousins Samad and Khalil, threw acid on them through window while they were asleep at their Adamdurgapur residence on the dreadful night.

## 35 candidates lose security money in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A total of 35 candidates have lost their security money in 11 constituencies of Mymensingh in the just concluded general election.

Most of these candidates contested as independent candidates. Eleven others contested as party nominees. Seven candidates of Jatiya Party (E) have lost their security money and all the candidates of Jatiya Party (M) have also lost their security money.

According to official sources, any candidate failing to poll at least one-eighth (12.5 per cent) of total votes cast in his constituency, he will lose his security money.

The candidates who lost their security money are: Dr Md Habibur Rahman (416 votes) in Mymensingh-1 (Haluaghat), Ziauddin Murad of Jatiya Party (E) (21,006 votes) and Md Abul Hasim (1,213 votes) in Mymensingh-2 (Phulpur), Anil Bandhu Das of Jatiya Party (M) (367 votes), Amir Ahmed Chowdhury Ratan (an Awami League rebel independent) (28,893 votes), AHM Golam Mohiuddin (111 votes), ABM Ayub (416 votes), Krishak Md Sadek (47 votes), Nasreen Moneem Khan (124 votes), Md Kawser Hossain Harun (166 votes), Md Kamruzzaman (526 votes), Shah Asaduzzaman (551 votes) and Sheikh Md Siddiqur Rahman in Mymensingh-4 (Sadar), Engineer Md Abdul

Bari of JP (E) (4,600 votes), Chowdhury Abdul Mannan (171 votes), Poresh Chandra Saha (296 votes), Biswajit Nandi (579 votes) and Md Amjad Hossain (285 votes) in Mymensingh-5 (Mukttagachha), AKM Samsul Huda (257 votes), Dr K R Islam of JP (E), Md Abdur Rashid (1,555 votes), and Md Fazlul Hoq (1,230 votes) in Mymensingh-6 (Phulbaria), Dr Sujit Bharman (492 votes) and Md Mosarraf Hossain (194 votes) in Mymensingh-7 (Trishal), Ahmed Hossain Bhuiyan (403 votes), S M Iqbal of JP (E) (6,065 votes) in Mymensingh-8 (Iswarganj), Kamrul Mohiuddin (410 votes) Md Abu Bakar Siddique (250 votes), Abdul Matin Bhuiyan (18,553 votes) and Abdul Hakim Bhuiyan (7,018 votes) in Mymensingh-9 (Nandail), Advocate S M Morshed (1318 votes), Raju Ahmed Khoka (152 votes) and Md Mesbah Uddin Jewel (110 votes) in Mymensingh-10 (Gafargaon) Md Mohiuddin (13,315 votes and Md Saifullah Chowdhury (2,397 votes) in Mymensingh-11 (Bhaluka).

However, no candidate in Mymensingh-3 (Gouripur) lost security money. But 10 candidates in Mymensingh-4 (Sadar) lost their security money.

A total of 17,60,976 votes were cast in 11 constituencies.

The total number of voters were 28,96,696. Of them 14,07,085 were female voters.

## Minister for Hasina's trial in special tribunal

BSS, *Tangail*

Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj criticised immediate past Awami League (AL) government on Monday for its alleged corruption, terrorism and nepotism during the last five years saying "special tribunal be formed to try Sheikh Hasina and her other corrupt associates for making Bangladesh the world's most corrupt country."

"Awami League did nothing for the nation except corruption, terrorism and nepotism during its tenure. Today I urge Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to form special tribunal to try the 'queen' of corruption, Sheikh Hasina, along with her close associates in next three months."

The minister said the prime task of the present government is to root out terrorism from society. "We will do everything to combat terrorism and if needed we will not spare our own men," he said asking party men not to try to take law in their own hands.

Kalihati, his home constituency.

Speaking in the rallies, Siraj said Awami League destroyed the economy and left a huge burden of foreign debt and empty national exchequer. "Now they (AL) have started new conspiracy to jeopardise the country's image of absolute communal harmony by creating 'artificial' problems of repression on Hindu minority," he said, adding that terrorists of Awami League are behind the incidents. He also asked party leaders and activists to follow the guidelines of Begum Zia and cooperate with Hindus in observance of the Durga Raja.

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## Teesta erosion renders 1,500 families homeless

UNB, *Lalmonirhat*

Erosion by the mighty river Teesta has taken a serious turn in Lalmonirhat in last few days rendering some 1,500 families homeless.

The turbulent river made over 3000 families of Rajpur union in Sadar upazila alone homeless and devoured three-fourth areas of Tajpur, Rajpur and Madhuram villages in last few days.

Many people living near the erosion-prone areas are shifting their dwelling houses to safer places to avoid imminent disaster.

Thousands of homeless people are living under the sky and passing their days in great hardships in absence of relief materials.

Rajpur union parishad chairman Shudhir Chandra Mohanta said the affected people are suffering much due to shortage of food, pure water and medicine.

Meanwhile, the Chinatuli Government Primary School building has already been devoured while the only road for the people of Rajpur union and Tajpur Government Primary School building are on verge of being washed

## Minority people in IU thana area leaving homes

IU CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Minority people are leaving their homes in fear of terrorist attacks in and around the Islamic University (IU) thana area.

About 1,100 minority people are being threatened allegedly by the activists of BNP and other parties of the alliance in Tribeni, Padomdi, Kachua, Nischintopur, Sheikhpura, Laxmipur, Harinarayanpur and Bittipara villages under IU thana of Kushtia.

"We can neither stay at our homes nor continue our business in the markets due to fear of attacks by the activists of BNP or other parties of 4-party alliance here," said a sweetmeat maker seeking anonymity.

They are also allegedly collecting toll from the minority people, sources said. "Two teenage girls of minority family have been kidnapped and raped recently and cows of minority families have been looted recently", revealed the sweetmeat producer. A case has been filed in this connection with Shaikupa thana.

## 99 arrested while trying to cross border

BSS, *Satkhira*

BDR personnel arrested 99 people from several border areas of the district while they were trying to cross the border on Saturday.

The members of 12 Rifles battalion raided the Bhomra, Mada, Padmashakra and Laxmidari border areas of the district and arrested 99 persons including 63 women and two children while they were trying to cross the border without valid papers.

They were handed over to sadar police.



PHOTO: STAR

A big boat has been anchored near Chapail ghat (terminal) in Sadar thana of Gopalganj which was closed down recently due to cracks developed along the bank of the Modhumati river. As a result ferry service along Gopalganj-Khulna and Gopalganj-Narail has been disrupted.

## Sugarcane cultivation on 1,040 hectares of land in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gopalganj*

Sugarcane cultivation is gaining popularity among the farmers of Gopalganj.

According to official sources, 1,040 hectares of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation in the mills zone areas in all five upazilas here. The sugarcane are supplied to Faridpur Sugar Mills Limited at Madhukhal in grater Faridpur district.

Sugarcane cultivation is gradually increasing not only in the mills zone area, but also in other areas. Its cultivation is more profitable in comparison with that of other crops like paddy, wheat and jute.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), a total of 1,040 hectares of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation this year. Of the lands, Gopalganj Sadar upazila 615 hectares, Maksudpur upazila 250 hectares, Kasiani upazila 70 hectares, Tunjipara upazila 100 hectares and 5 hectares in Katalipara upazila.

But due to lack of proper motivation programme growers of this area usually cultivate local variety of sugarcane. Growers produce 50 metric tons of sugarcane per hectare on average. But the production will be nearly two fold if modern technology is introduced here properly.

Atier Molla, a farmer of village Golabaia in Gopalganj sadar told The Daily Star correspondent that they would be able to produce more than 80 metric tons of sugarcane per hectares if modern method is applied.

Growers of this area are also deprived of fair prices of their products as there is no other sugar mill in the district. Growers are compelled to produce molasses by the sugarcane. During peak season of sugarcane crushing molasses is sold here at Tk 12 to Tk 14 per kilogram which is not reasonable, growers said. Price of one metric ton of molasses is about Tk 13,000 but growers have to spend Tk 4,000 to produce one metric ton of molasses as crushing, juice boiling and fuel

charge. Due to non-availability of electricity in the remote areas, growers use bullocks for crushing sugarcane. The crushing capacity of electric driven crusher is nearly 10 times higher than the traditional bullock-driven crusher.

Growers also complained that due to bad communication in the rural areas, they sell their produce to middlemen at lower prices. The middlemen are taking advantage of the situation, some growers also told this correspondent.

Some traders said that more than 50 per cent of molasses are transported to the capital city, Chittagong and other parts of the country.

Now a farmer can earn Tk 50,000 to Tk 60,000 from one hectare of land by investing Tk 20,000. The farmer can increase their profit by cultivating other crops in their sugarcane fields in the first stage of cultivation.

A sugar mill can easily be run in the district.

## Rural markets in Netrakona in bad shape

BSS, *Netrakona*

Many rural hats and bazars in 10 upazilas of Netrakona are in pitiable conditions causing untold sufferings to the rural people.

According to local people, the infrastructures of most of the rural hats and bazars have been constructed without proper planning and necessary marketing facilities. Because these type of rural marketing or shopping centres are generally framed in our country by local initiative.

Over 300 hats and bazars have so far been established in the rural areas. But most of these village markets are facing manifold problems, which triggered off untold sufferings to the buyers and sellers. In many hats and bazars, the sellers are to sit outside the roofs of the hats and bazars with their commodities due to shortage of accommodation.

In absence of tube-wells in most of these rural markets, the buyers and sellers are to suffer due to scarcity of drinking water.

Moreover, there are no arrangements for toilet facilities and proper drainage systems in most of these rural markets. For this reason, filth and garbage are dumped in the markets hither and thither which emit bad smell threatening public health.

Local people urged the government to take initiative to improve the conditions of the dilapidated rural hats and bazars for mitigating their sufferings.