

NEWS SNAPS

Indian held for provoking minorities

UNB, Pirojpur

A septuagenarian Indian national was arrested from Ruhitala Bunia village in Nazipur upazila in Pirojpur on Thursday on charge of provoking the minority people to leave the country.

On information, police raided the village in the morning and caught Jagabandhu Roy hailing from Chhabish Pargana, West Bengal. Villagers alleged that Jagabandhu was provoking Hindus to go to India.

BNP cadres loot house of AL leader

UNB, Barisal

House of a Barisal Awami League leader was looted allegedly by the ruling party cadres Wednesday night.

Source said 15/20 terrorists of BNP entered into the Amanatgani residence of district AL publicity secretary Syed Anis Wednesday midnight. They looted construction materials from an under-construction building of Anis snatching the telephone and electricity lines of the house.

BNP men attack house of Jamaat leader

UNB, Chuadanga

Fifteen people were injured in an attack on the house of a Jamaat leader allegedly by BNP men at Bondovita in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga on Thursday.

Witnesses said the attack on the house of Jamaat leader Hasibur Rahman was made following a land dispute. Of the injured, the condition of Solaiman, Morshed, Shahabul and Khayer was stated to be critical. But it was unclear whether the injured were hospitalised or not. A case was filed. Meanwhile, local Chintra Shibir condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

BNP leader hurt by bullets of assailants

UNB, Pabna

Dashuria union parishad chairman and local BNP leader Abdul Hamid Jinnah was wounded by four bullets fired by unknown assailants at 7 pm on Wednesday.

Witnesses said Jinnah was sitting in his business house in Dashuria Bazaar when about 10 gunmen coming in a white micro fired at him from a close range and left the place. Four bullets hit him. He was rushed to Pabna hospital in a critical condition.

Two alleged terrorists caught

UNB, Chittagong

Two alleged terrorists were caught along with an LG while they were trying to occupy a taxi stand at Soloshahar in the port city on Thursday.

Police said the taxi labourers caught Rafiq and Mannaf, cadres of ruling BNP when they along with 6/7 other terrorists went to occupy the taxi stand adjacent to Soloshahar gate no-2 at about 12.30 pm. Later, they were handed over to police. The LG was recovered from Rafiq, police said.

Three alleged gold smugglers arrested

UNB, Bagerhat

Three alleged gold smugglers, one of them a woman, were arrested from Nagerbazar in Bagerhat town Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and arrested Kalam Khan, 35, his brother Masum Khan, 25, and Ayatunnesa, 45, of Pirojpur district. Some 400 grams of gold were recovered from their possession. A case was filed.

Two Indian nationals arrested by BDR

UNB, Panchagarh

Two Indian nationals were arrested by BDR recently while they were trying to steal sugarcane from a bordering village of Bangladesh at Tetulia Colonipara in Panchagarh.

The arrested were identified as Ram Kumar, 32, and Sadananda, 30, of Hatiramajot in Fasidaha thana of Jolpaiganj district of West Bengal. Villagers said Indian thieves regularly enter into the area to steal sugarcane from Bangladesh village.



Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) hosted a reception to State Minister for Forests and Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury recently at Hotel Agrabad in the port city.

Re-polling demanded

UNB, Gazipur

A candidate of Jangalia Union Parishad (UP) in Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur demanded re-polling and cancellation of the by-poll results of the union council.

Humayun Kabir, the nearest rival of the winning candidate, filed a case with local Magistrate Wednesday complaining irregularities in voting as many expatriate people and deceased were shown to have casted their votes. Meanwhile, Mina Begum, mother of another candidate Abul Hossain Apple who along with his brother were arrested on the polling day on charge of violence, demanded fair investigation into the incident. Her demand came from a press conference on Thursday.

Terrorist caught near Pakshey

UNB, Pabna

A terrorist was caught red handed while uprooting railway slippers near Pakshey Paper Mill on Iswardi-Khulna line early hours on Wednesday.

The terrorists were engaged in the dangerous mischief at about 4 am. Residents along the rail line saw it and caught one of them. Others in the group managed to flee. On information railway police rushed to the spot when the terrorist, identified as Amirul Islam, was handed over to them along with five uprooted slippers. Amirul was taken to police remand for interrogation. Railway traffic on the line was disrupted for more than four hours from 4 am.

3 pc couples do not use FP methods

UNB, Khulna

Despite massive government campaign, 23 per cent of fertile couples in 51 Asryan projects of Khulna division could not be brought under family planning (FP) programme.

According to a recent survey, 499 fertile couples out of 2,320 do not use any birth control methods either for ignorance or superstition. However, 1,821 fertile couples of the projects use contraceptives and of them 384 use permanent birth control methods while the rest 1,437 the temporary methods. Only Chuadanga district has the cent per cent success rate in motivating the inhabitants of its Asryan projects to use contraceptives.

Birth registration programme begins

UNB, Patuakhali

A birth registration programme, organised by Patuakhali District Birth Registration Committee, began in Patuakhali on Tuesday through a colourful rally.

Over 1,000 people including students, workers of social organisations and officers of district administration took part in the rally. In a press briefing at local Circuit House, officials said that some 860 field workers would register the birth of every children from zero to five years. Besides, 251 supervisors will supervise the work of the field workers. Deputy Commissioner Shaiful Islam, ADC Bazlur Rashid, Project Officer of UNICEF John Peter and other officials concerned spoke in the press briefing.

Abducted girl rescued by police

UNB, Jessore

Terrorists picked up a schoolgirl from her house at Durgapur village in Sadar upazila of Jessore last week and abused her for days.

Police said Rashid and his accomplices Badsha, Ashraf and Afzal of the village broke into the house of the teenage girl, as she was fast asleep on the night of Nov 9. They took her to a house of Mogreb Ali at Kashipur village in Sharsha upazila and raped her one after another. The miscreants had planned to traffic out the girl to India, but police on information rescued her. However, there was no arrest. A case was filed.

Cane crushing in Mobarakganj Sugar Mills

UNB, Jhenidah

Mobarakganj Sugar Mills in Jhenidah started its crushing on Friday for the season 2001-2002.

Industries Minister MK Anwar inaugurated the crushing that will continue for 190 days. For this season the mill has fixed a production target of 11,200 metric tons of sugar by crushing 1.4 lakh metric tons of sugarcane, said mill sources.

The mill produced 7,474 tons of sugar by crushing 95,240 tons of cane in the last (2000-2001) season.

BNP cadres rule Feni

UNB, Feni

The people of Feni, relieved of the notorious Hazari Bahini, are now falling victim to extortion, abduction and repression by BNP cadres.

The BNP cadres armed with automatic weapons and allegedly led by Mohin, Kazi and Belal raided the house of Monindra Kumar in village Safarpur of Sonagazi upazila, and looted valuables Monday night, witnesses said.

The reason behind the attack, the BNP cadres said, was that Monindra Kumar talked against terrorism and cited certain incidents in the area involving the BNP activists at a meeting with Mosharraf Hossain, the local MP on November 9. Monindra Kumar is the headmaster of Bakhtar Munshi Moazzem Hossain School established by Mosharraf.

Locals said that since the change of the government Mohin Bahini was engaged in different acts of repression including abduction of innocent people for ransom

in different villages including Safarpur, Ahmedpur, Hajipur, Char Sonapur and Charkrishna.

On Monday night BNP cadres led by Shipon raided the house of Shashi Babu in Sanuagram. They brought together people of 18 other families from the neighbourhood and demanded tolls varying from Tk 5,000 to Tk 25,000 from each of the families. They left after giving the people an ultimatum of 24 hours for payment of the tolls, one of the victims, requesting anonymity, said.

Shipon Bahini of Kazir Dighi area earlier kidnapped Shashi Babu, an employee of the health department, 12 days ago and demanded a ransom of Tk 1 lakh for his release. He was finally released after a payment of Tk 20,000.

The victims complained to Mosharraf Hossain MP but the MP, pleaded his helplessness in taking action against the notorious cadres of his party, some sources said.

Police also expressed their 'inability' to take any action against the ruling party cadres.



Visitors throng Rangpur Public Library in the district town where 'Japanese Poster Exhibition-2001' was inaugurated recently by Deputy Minister for Communication Asadul Habib Dul. Rangpur branch of Bangladesh-Japan Youth Friendship Association arranged the three-day exhibition.

Six female voters honoured

BSS, Jhenidah

Jhenidah district administration honoured the female voters of Surat union with some awards for application of their fundamental rights after 42 years.

The wards were distributed on the playground of Surat school. Khulna Divisional Commissioner Jamal Ahmed presented the awards as the chief guest.

Six women received special awards for being the first voters of the six centres in the union. They are: Halima Khatun of Bagdanga vote centre, Chandi Begum of Baniabohur, Nurjahan of Krishnapur, Rahima Khatun of Chutlia, Anzira Khatun of Laudia and Khadija Begum of Khardo Surat vote centre.

Deputy Commissioner Abu Baker Mohammad Shahjahan chaired the meeting. Police Super AKM Shahjahan and local administration officials were present on the occasion.

Kidnapped Hazari cadre rescued: 5 BNP men held

UNB, Feni

Police early Wednesday rescued a cadre of Joynal Hazari Bahini within 10 hours of his abduction by ruling party activists and arrested five alleged kidnapers.

Shamsul Karim, 20, of Damdama village in Molbi union was kidnapped from Laskarhat Bazaar in Sadar upazila at about 5 pm Tuesday.

On information, police raided the area and rescued Karim from the house of Zakir Hossain of village Laxmipur after a long search.

Five alleged kidnapers Joynal Abedin, Sheikh Farid, Abdul Wahab, Zakir and Belayet were arrested from the house. They are known BNP activists.

A case was filed against them.

BCL leader murder Prime accused held in Raozan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Police arrested the prime accused in the BCL leader Didar-murder case from Harishkhanpara of East Raozan in the early hours on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house at Harishkhanpara at around 3.30 am and arrested Ronny Shil alias Ronnya, 20. He was sleeping in the house.

A gang led by Ronny allegedly killed Raozan thana BCL president Didarul Alam on May 8 in broad day light while he was talking with his party-men in a restaurant.

Police said, Ronny was the second-in-command of the 'Aziz Bahini' headed by BNP cadre Aziz and wanted in as many as seven criminal cases including murder, extortion and robbery.

Ronny told a group of journalists on Wednesday noon that his god-father Aziz possesses some sophisticated firearms including one M-16 and one AK-47 assault rifle.

Smugglers of computer parts active

UNB, Jessore

Like many other goods computer parts are being smuggled to India through different frontier areas of Jessore and Jhenidah districts.

The price of computer parts is much lower in Bangladesh than that in India which prompted a section of dishonest traders to smuggle the parts for high profit.

The immediate-past Awami League government waved all taxes on computer and its accessories to make computers easily available to the people that resulted in price reduction.

Since the price of computer and its parts, imported from other countries, went down in Bangladesh smugglers had added it to the item list of their illegal business.

Many computer selling centers in Jessore and Jhenidah are reportedly helping the smugglers to carry on their illegal trade. Some of them

have direct link with importers.

A local computer trader informed that the computer shops of border areas often buy a huge number of accessories including RAM from Dhaka or Khulna.

"It is mysterious, because we can not even think of selling 100 pieces of RAM a month in the district town of Jessore," said the trader preferring anonymity.

An importer in Dhaka also admitted the smuggling and said the price of RAM in India is much higher than in Bangladesh. Small size of RAM also facilitated its smuggling, he said.

He, however, observed that the government is facing huge losses for the smuggling of computer parts.

Apart from RAM, other accessories including hard disk, processor, mother-board, floppy disk drive, CD-ROM drive and TV card are also being smuggled.

Sugarcane cultivation decreases in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Sugarcane cultivation is decreasing in Natore for reasons including scarcity of high quality seeds, lack of modern technology, absence of proper training and negligence of the concerned officials.

As a result two sugar mills of the district Natore Sugar Mills and North Bengal Sugar Mills the two profit earning sugar mills of the country, have been facing shortage of sugarcane supply for last three years.

Natore is considered as one of the best areas for sugarcane cultivation in the country. About 50 thousand acres of land are usually cultivated for sugarcane in Natore every year and the production is around 10 lakh metric tons. Last year only six metric tons had been used by the sugar mills when the rest had been used for molasses production.

Local sugarcane growers raised allegations of many problems which, they say, discourage them to grow sugarcane.

Most of the growers do not get quality seeds for plantation although the cane research centre in Ishwardi is producing good quality seeds. The research centre used to produce seeds which have the capacity to yield 45 tons per acre. But the growers of Natore region are not getting sufficient seeds.

At sugar mills, the price of cane is

Tk 37 per maund while the molasses producers give Tk 50 to 55 per maund. Besides, the growers are to face a lengthy process to receive the price from the mills.

Last year, Natore sugar mills distributed Tk 3 crore 27 lakh loan to 7,699 growers. Chemical fertilizer, seeds and insecticides had also been given to the growers.

The other problem of cane cultivation in Natore is water logging in agricultural lands. There is no proper management to drain out water from agr-lands in the rainy season. As a result a huge quantity of sugarcane are damaged every

22 Hindus detained while trying to cross border

UNB, Thakurgaon

BDR personnel detained 22 Bangladeshi Hindu people including four women while they were trying to enter into India through Baliadangi border.

BDR arrested the travellers at about 7 pm on Monday. They gave money to a broker for crossing the border without passports through Telagara area of Baliadangi.

A case was lodged against the arrested with Baliadangi thana.

Police said the arrested were going to India to see Kalipuja there. However, another source said they were migrating to India permanently.



PHOTO: STAR

Talents of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations of this year pose for a snap with Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu MP, and former mayors of the corporation at RCC Bhaban in Rajshahi recently. Minu accorded a reception to the students of the corporation area where he distributed medals among them.