

NEWS SNAPS

Sirajganj AL leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj
A local Awami League (AL) leader and Union Parishad Chairman was arrested on Friday in connection with an attack on the motorcade of a BNP candidate before the October 1 general election.

Police said Badsha Alam, chairman of Meshra Union Parishad in sadar upazila, is an accused in the case of attacking the motorcade of Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, who is now the local MP and State Minister for Energy on September 25. He was absconding. Police said Badsha is also an accused in other cases of arson and violence in the area before and after the election.

Terrorists attack principal of a school

UNB, Pirojpur
Masked terrorists attacked the principal of a pre-cadet school in Mathbaria upazila headquarters on Thursday night.

Mostafa Shah Alam Dulal, Principal of Sony Pre-cadet School and President of Mathbaria Upazila Kirsak League, came under attack while he was returning home from the school at about 8:30 pm. The reason behind the attack could not be known. He was later admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. His condition was stated to be critical.

Village brought under electricity network

UNB, Brahmanbaria
Pali Bidyut Samiti (PBS) has brought Dholapara village in Akhaura upazila of Brahmanbaria under power supply network at a cost of Tk 42 lakh.

Local MP Mushfiqur Rahman inaugurated the power supply network Thursday, providing electricity to 314 houses, one industry, 55 shops and six irrigation projects of the area. PBS officials said farmers would be able to bring over 300 acres of land of the village under the irrigation projects from where 40 mts of additional food would be produced.

Works on college buildings completed

UNB, Bogra
Construction and reconstruction works on academic buildings of six colleges in Bogra were completed recently.

Facilities Department of Education Ministry under its 'Government and Private College Development Project' implemented the works at a cost Tk 2.58 crore. The institutions are Nazir Akhter Govt. College in Sonatola, Shah Sultan Govt. College, Shantahar Govt. College, Shah Ehtebaria College in Talora, Chhainata College and Dr Enamul Haq College.

Teachers of TLM deprived of salaries

UNB, Thakurgaon
Salaries of teachers and supervisors of Total Literacy Movement (TLM) 'Surabhita Thakurgaon' remained outstanding for several months.

The aggrieved teachers and supervisors held a demonstration on Thursday and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner demanding immediate payment of their dues.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Chittagong parade the streets of the port city in a procession to press home their demand for upgradation of the institute into a full-fledged engineering university.

Incidents of abduction, loot on rise in Feni

UNB, Feni

Incidents of abduction for ransom, loot and arson are on an alarming rise in Feni creating panic among the peace-loving people in the month of holy Ramadan.

Police and witnesses said four people were injured seriously in separate such incidents on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Police said a gang of 8/10 armed terrorists led by Absar, said to be a Jubo Dal Cadre, abducted Abdur Razzak, 55, a UP member and an Awami League activist, from his

house at Masipur in Sadar upazila on Wednesday morning.

The gang took him to Rajarhat area and demanded Tk 3 lakh as ransom. But they released him at 3pm when police started searching the area.

Another gang, allegedly BNP cadres, beat and stabbed expatriate Alamgir Hossain, 27, and his father Haji Aminul Huq, 54, at their house at South Bathania village in Chhagalnaiya upazila for refusing to pay them Tk one lakh as toll on the same day.

They were rushed to Feni Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday night, a gang of muggers beat Farhad Hossain of Udrapur village in Daganbhuiyan upazila mercilessly for refusing to pay them toll.

In yet another incident, a gang of 6/7 masked terrorists stormed into the house of Haradhan at village Mandarbari in Sonagazi upazila on the same night.

They beat the inmates indiscriminately and decamped with gold ornaments and cash. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Members of outlawed parties active again in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Members of the outlawed parties have become active again in Magura.

They have begun their illegal activities in different villages, creating panic and tension among the peace-loving people with renewed vigour, local people said.

Although the new government has directed members of the law-enforcing agencies to gear up activities against the terrorists throughout the country, yet five people were abducted for ransom in 10 days from October 30 to November 8. The abducted five youngmen are Shafiqur Rahman (Shafique) of Kajoli, Amol Shikder and Nabab Ali of Srikol, Golam Kibria of Chowgachchi village in Sreepur upazila and Hasan, 19, of Soychar village in Sadar upazila.

Amol Shikder was kidnapped at gun-point by a gang of about 16 from his village home on October 30. After payment of Tk 2 lakh as ransom Amol was released on November 2, concerned sources said.

Shafiqur Rahman (Shafique) of Kajoli village in Sreepur upazila was abducted for ransom from Bhaina Square of Magura town on November 8, and freed on the following day in exchange of Tk two lakh, local people said.

Golam Kibria, 20, son of Golam Sarwar of Chowgachchi village in Sreepur upazila was kidnapped for ransom on the same day. Kibria, however, managed to flee from the grip of the terrorists after two days on Nov 10. But Nabab Ali of village Sreekol in the same upazila who was abducted for ransom on November 9 is yet to be rescued till Nov 14.

Nobody knows the fate of Nabab Ali.

Besides, Hasan, 19, son of Salek Molla, resident of village Soychar in Sadar upazila was kidnapped for ransom of Tk 1.5 lakh and freed after payment of the amount, local people said.

Talking to this correspondent the superintendent of police (SP), Magura Mohsin Hossain said we learnt

about the incidents of kidnapping for ransom.

But nobody lodged any specific complaint with police. "Police can never remove all the problems or to maintain law and order in the society without active participation of the local people. People should open their tongue to help find out the culprits and their patronisers", he said.

Meanwhile, the outlawed parties are fighting to establish supremacy in different villages of Raghobdayer, Hazipur Hazrapur and Mogh unions of Magura Sadar upazila.

The outlaws equipped with different type of modern firearms have been continuing their regrouping activities under the banner of Gono Mukti Fouz, Purbo Banglar Communist Party, Sarbahara, Gonobahini of JSD and a private bahini named after its leader.

About 100 members of the underground parties including some listed terrorists along with some backdated fire arms surrendered under the general amnesty declared by the government in 1999. But most of them are now out of jail on bail from the higher court and have already started their evil activities of regrouping themselves. They are now moving freely which is great threat to the peace-loving people in the area.

Investigation revealed that the members of the private Bahini have already started toll-collection silently in some villages of Raghobdayer union. In most cases, terrorists threatened not to disclose the matter to anybody.

Victimised people here said the members of the private terrorist group do not have any political affiliation. Almost all the members of this private Bahini are engaged in terrorist activities.

A police official, on condition of anonymity, said the outlawed groups are now again engaged in their misdeeds using a local ruling party leader as their patroniser.

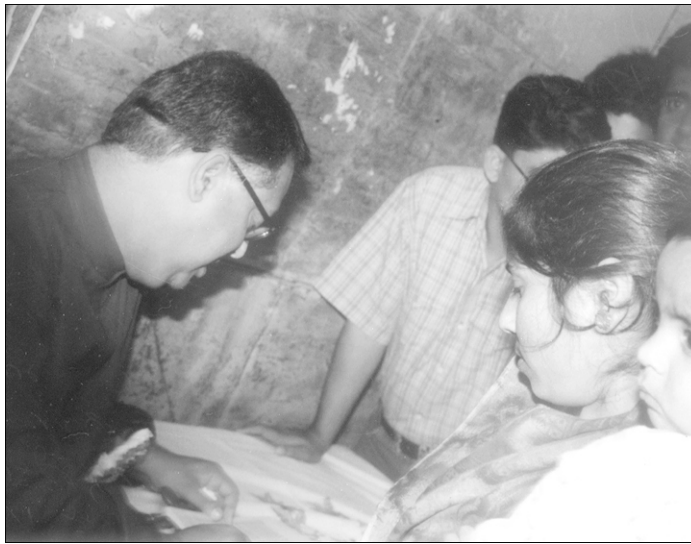


PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Energy Iqbal Hassan Mahmud opens the birth registration programme of children at Bhasani auditorium in Sirajganj on Thursday.

Six killed in Bogra in one week

UNB, Bogra

At least six people were killed and a number of robberies committed in Bogra in last one week signaling an alarming deterioration in law and order situation.

Of the murders, three took place in Sadar upazila Nov 24. The victims were identified as Rezaul Karim Ratan, 35, Suman, 20, and Manik, 23, of Malatinagar in the town.

The other victims were identified as Azhar Ali, 35, of Kahalu upazila, Abdul Baset, 40, of Shariakandi upazila and Ansar Ali, 30, of Gabtali upazila.

Blaming police inaction for the worsening law and order, local people alleged that members of the law-enforcing agencies were releasing toll from shop owners and bus and truck drivers in the name of 'Eid bonus' instead of cracking down on the criminals.

Official sources said 24 police sub-inspectors were transferred from the district recently, but two of them managed to withdraw their transfer orders.

They said interference of some local BNP leaders in police affairs has contributed to the deteriorating law and order situation.

LP gas price up in N region

UNB, Bogra

LP gas price continues to rise in the northern region, including Bogra, due to short supply inflicting sufferings on the consumers during Ramadan.

Market sources said LP gas was selling at Tk 350-360 per cylinder against the government rate of Tk 266 since the beginning of Ramadan.

When contacted the manager of Padma Oil Company's local office recognised the short supply and said blackmarketeers were taking advantage of the situation.

He said only 30,000 cylinders were currently being supplied to the northern region against its demand for 60,000 cylinders. Only 5,000 cylinders were supplied to Bogra this month against its usual demand for 8,000 cylinders, he added.

Although three other private companies, including Bashundara Gas Company, are selling gas in the market, but their usual price is much higher than the government rate.

Birth registration of children begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

State Minister for Energy Iqbal Hassan Mahmud on Thursday said that the birth registration is the pre-condition for preservation the rights of children.

The State Minister said this while inaugurating the birth registration programme at local Bhasani Auditorium in Sirajganj. Local district administration and UNICEF will jointly implement the programme of the new born babies up to five years old till December 12.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, the function was attended, among others, by officials of the district administration, leaders of local BNP, teachers and students of different schools.

Mentioning the UN Charter for child rights, the State Minister said the name of each child should be registered just after birth.

He emphasised on creating mass awareness among the parents and teachers to make the birth registration programme a success. He also called upon the service-oriented organisations including the journalists to come forward for creating mass awareness about birth registration of babies.

Farmer stabbed to death in Pabna

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Members of an outlawed party stabbed to death a farmer in village Fulbari of Ataikula thana in Pabna on Sunday night.

Police said a gang of miscreants kidnapped Musa, 35, from his house on Sunday evening and took him to an unknown place. They stabbed him mercilessly and threw the body to a nearby paddy field.

Police recovered the body on Monday morning and sent it to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Five persons were arrested from the village in connection with the killing.

A murder case was filed Ataikula thana.