NATIONAL

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25 hurt as BNP factions clash in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 25 people were injured, seven of them seriously, in a clash between two factions of BNP at Koyra village in Ullapara upazila in Sirajganj on Tuesday night. Police and local people said the clash erupted when supporters of Khoair Miah attacked Hamid group at the village at about 8:00 pm. They also ransacked several houses and looted valuables.

Both the groups exploded more than 100 crackers during the clash that lasted for about 2 hours. Seriously injured Mozammel, Shajahan, Abu Bakker, Kamrul Hossain, Ilias Hossain, Golam Mostagaa and Asaduzzaman were admitted to a local hospital at Ullapara. Police arrested seven people from the spot. A case was filed in this connection.

BNP men beat up doctor at Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Natore

A group of BNP activists allegedly assaulted a physician and ransacked his chamber in the town's Chalkrampur area on Tuesday noon.

The BNP men entered into the chamber of Dr Shajahan Ali, an orthopaedic consultant of Natore Sadar Hospital and demanded Tk 20,000 as toll. As he refused to oblige, they beat him and ransacked furniture of his chamber.

Shajahan filed a case with Sadar thana accusing BNP activists Alam, Rafig, Mukhta and five others. None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report on Tuesday

20 Bangladeshi nationals languish in jail

UNB, Panchagarh

Twenty Bangladeshi nationals have been languishing at Shiliguri, Jalpaiguri and Uttar Dinajpur district jails in India even after completion of their jail terms.

Seven of the Bangladesh prisoners have been identified as Daimul Islam, 45, Dalilur Rahman, 35, and Tipri, 40, of Cheprajhar village, Nurul Haque, 42, of Balapara village, Sirajul, 40, and Hulia, 35, of Bodhgaon village and Rahidul Islam, 45, of Baro Singia village in Autoari upazila of Panchagarh. According to information from across the border, the Bangladeshi nationals have been leading a subhuman life in the Indian jails simply for lack of initiatives to complete necessary formalities to bring them back. Indian border guards from Kamargach outpost caught them on charge of illegal border crossing. Later, an Indian court sentenced them to various jail terms

High court issues stay order UNB, Comilla

The High Court has postponed all activities of the newly formed convening committee of Muktijoddah Sangsad Comilla unit for two months.

A bench of the High Court, comprising Justice M Abdul Matin and M Marijul Haq, issued the stay order following a petition filed by Advocate Shah Mohammad Monir Sharif of the recently dissolved committee. Liberation War Affairs Ministry formed the convening committee dissolving the previous one. The BNP-backed new committee captured the Muktijoddah Sangsad district unit office on December 28.

Clash over cutting of road leaves 60 hurt

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A clash between two groups of people over cutting of road at village Muslendupur in Nasirnagar upazila of Brahmanbaria left 60 people wounded Tuesday.

Witnesses said both the groups used sharp weapons during the two-hour long battle that prompted the villagers to call in police to control the situation. Nine of the injured --Abdul Habib, Abdul Latif, Alauddin, Kadir, Ramjan, Saju Mia, Lutu Mia, Imam Hossain and Mizanur Rahman -- were being treated at Sadar Hospital. However, no case was filed in this connection

374 MTs of HYV 'aman' seeds produced

UNB, Rangpur

Some 132 listed seed growers of BADC in Rangpur produced 374 mts of high yielding variety (HYV) of aman seeds worth about Tk 40 lakh last year.

Of the seeds, 310 mts were BR-II while 20 mts BR-30, 14 mts BR-31 and 30 mts RB-32 varieties, officials said. The seeds wee produced on 570 acres of land of five BADC farms -- Rangpur Vegetable Seed Farm, Domar Farm, Nilphamari Farm, Jute Research Institute and Lalmonirhat Airport Farm.

Work on flood centre begins UNB, Pabna

Construction work of a first ever NGO-funded flood centre in northern region was inaugurated at a remote shoal in Pabna on Tuesday.

Asiab. a non-government organisation, with financial assistance from Concern Bangladesh is constructing the centre at Chartarapur Arial Govail in Sadar upazila. Maulana Abdus Samad MP was present at the inaugural programme

Non-payment of telephone bill

T&T prepares list of defaulting ex-MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The authorities of Telegraph and Telephone (T&T) Department has pepared a list of some former members of parliament (MPs) who failed to pay their telephone bills on time despite repeated official reminders.

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Khulna divisional office of T&T disclosed this. T&T sent the list of defaulters to the speaker of the eighth

parliament. Immediately following his approval, T&T will sue the defaulting former MPs to realise the outstanding bills, said the PRO.

The former members of parliament (MPs) belong to Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat. They are likely to be sued by the Telephone Department next month for nonpayment of outstanding bills of over Tk 15 lakh. The former members of fourth, fifth and seventh

parliament are yet to pay their outstanding bills despite frequent official reminders. They received a monthly

allowance of Tk 4,000 from the government for payment of phone bills, but they never paid the bills, said the PRO. Names of the defaulters are as follows: MPs of the

fourth parliament: Zahurul Huq Sarder, Moktar Hossain, Principal SM Abu Saeed and Habibur Rahman.

MPs of the fifth parliament: Syed Nargis Ali, Shaikh Harun-ar-Rahid, SM Mostafa Rashidi Shuja, Sharif Khasruzzaman, Mia Mansur Ali, Kazi Shamsur Rahman, Md Mansur Ahmed and Nazrul Islam.

MPs of the seventh parliament: Shaikh Nurul Huq, Sharif Khasruzzaman, Begum Mannujan Sufian, Mir Sakawat Ali Daru, Late Syed Kamal Bakht, Dr MM Mokhlesur Rahman, Kazi Shamsur Rahman, BM Nazrul Islam, Md Shahadat Hossain, Panchanon Biswas, Kazi Sekandar Ali Dalim, Naray an Chandra Chanda and Talukdar Abdul Khaleque. It, however, still remains unknown why the T&T has

not yet prepared a list of defaulting MPs of the sixth parliament from the aforementioned districts

Scarcity of boro seeds in Kurigram

totally dependent on Bangladesh

Agriculture Development

Corporation (BADC) for procuring

Extension (DAE) has set a target to

bring 68.800 hectares of land under

the boro cultivation with an output

BADC officials said they have

sold 53 mts of seeds already among

Department of Agriculture

UNB,Kurigram

agriculture officials said Scarcity of boro seeds has been prevailing in Kurigram in the current IRRI-boro farming season pushing local farmers into uncertainty.

Farmers alleged that the dealers are creating artificial crisis of seeds quality seeds for making windfall profit, but the authority concerned is yet to take any pragmatic steps to address the crisis target of 2.30 lakh mts in the current

It was also alleged that the dealers mixing up substandard seeds with BADC's high quality seeds and selling those at high

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

age of 150 in the year 2003.

send their names with short life

JCD-ICS clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

campus on Mondav noon.

befittingly.

leaves 4

injured

Khulna

prices Farmers started to prepare seedbeds in the middle of Bengali month 'kartik' this year with a hope of seeds.

Besides, BADC has already of achieving bumper production like two previous years, but vast tracts of supplied 155 mts of seeds to 26 authorised dealers for selling those seedbeds were damaged due to

season

untimely flash flood, heavy rainfall to the farmers. and other natural calamities, local dealers are now selling those seeds In this situation, farmers became

at high prices. They are selling each bag BRI-28 seeds between Tk 175 and Tk 180 as against the normal rate of Tk 140, the farmers alleged.

Two killed in road mishap

A CORRESPONDENT, Habiganj

Two persons were killed and 50 injured when a bus fell into a ditch in Baniachang upazila skidding off Habiganj-Baniachang road on Monday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at about 10:30 am as the driver lost control over the steerina

Hundi business is going on

unabated in 16 northern districts, state-run and private banks became including Sirajganj, due to inaction active in carrying out their hundi of the law enforcers. business soon after BNP-led coali-

The number of hundi brokers in tion government came to power at the northern region have increased the end of last year. in an alarming proportion as the law enforcing agencies are not taking telephone and mobile phones from necessary steps in this regard due different parts in the region is sendto reasons unknown, locals alleged. ing millions of taka to the recipients in various countries, including India.

Taking the advantage, the hundi brokers with the connivance of the officers and employees of different banks in these regions have been carrying out their illegal business.

As the past Awami League government enforced a strict restriction on hundi business and took legal actions against some officers and employees of private banks, it

remained stopped in these regions. the authorities concerned to imm But dishonest traders in connivance with the corrupt officers of

diately take necessary steps to stop illegal hundi business. Couple receives burn injuries

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

UNB, Chandpur A gang of smugglers using

> A young wife and her husband have landed in hospital with severe burn injuries they suffered after a quarrel. In a fit of rage after the quarrel, 24-

year old Bilqis Farhana poured

kerosene on her saree and torched it

Pakistan, Malaysia and Singapore. depriving the government of huge revenue income at their house in the town at about 5 Hundi business is brisk mainly in am on Monday. Kazi Zaheer, the Rajshahi, Naogaon, Pabna, Bogra, Sirajganj, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon husband, jumped in the fire to rescue

and Panchagarh. her. He succeeded but both suffered Local leaders in the region urged severe burn injuries

the farmers. Of the total, 33 mts were BRI-28 variety, 12 mts BRI-29, 4 mts Shubid and 4 mts other variety



complete 150 yrs in 2003

sketches to the headmaster of the school to make the programme a Barisal Zilla School will attain the success

Luminaries like Dr Zakir Some former students of this Hossain, former Director of World premier educational institution Health Organisation (WHO), recently met the Headmaster of Tapan Roy Chowdhury, Professor the school, Razia Begum at her at Oxford, Rathin Sen Gupta, exschool office in Barisal where they Chief Secretary, West Bengal, Ali decided to celebrate the comple-Akbar, ex-Member, Bangladesh tion of 150 years of their institution Planning Commission and All the former students of the Principal Hossain Ali are some of school have been requested to the celebrated alumni of Barisal

People of number 10 union in Maheshpur of Munshiganj are in grip of panic of river erosion. This is because the river Padma devoured half the area of their union during the last rainy season. They fear they might lose their homesteads in the next rainy season. So, they demand immediate short term protection measures in this ongoing dry season, otherwise the Padma would render them homeless and pauper.

Hundi business in 16 dists UNB, Sirajganj Taking the advantage of the

30 feeder roads to be constructed

UNB, Pirojpur

are likely to be completed by March.

Thirty feeder roads will be constructed in Pirojpur this fiscal at a cost of Tk 3.85 crore. Of the roads, four will be constructed in Sadar while three in Mothbaria, six in Nazirpur, nine in Bhandaria, four in Kaukhali and four in Sharupkathi upazilas. The roads

No registration of travel agencies

UNB, Sylhet

A large number of local travel agencies are running their business without registration depriving the government of huge revenues.

Although there are some 2000 travel agencies in Sylhet, only 170 of them have registration. According to competent sources, most of the travel agencies, which have no registration, are engaged in illegal hundi business and manpower export as youths Sylhet have a trend of flying abroad, particularly London.

Leader of terrorist group arrested

UNB, Noakhali

The leader of a terrorist group was arrested from Begumganj upazila in Noakhali Sunday. The arrested was identified as Pias, an accused in five cases. Another report from

Comilla adds: Being upset by his terrorist activities, a man of Bandirchar village in Chowddagram upazila handed over his son to police Sunday. Police said Ali Ahmed handed his son Shafiq, 24, over to police having failed to control him.

Two injured by armed robbers

UNB, Munshiganj

Armed robbers swooped on a house at Sanmargaon in Srinagar upazila of Munshiganj Monday and looted valuables leaving two people injured.

Villagers said the bandits broke into the house of Anil Das at dead of night and looted the valuables, including eight tolas of gold and Tk 5,000, at gunpoint. The injured received first aid

Valuables looted from five houses

UNB, Bagerhat

In a string of robberies armed bandits looted valuables worth over Tk two lakh from five houses in Morelganj upazila in Bagerhat Sunday night.

Police said the armed robbers stormed into the houses of Nur Mohammad at Shankidanga village, Ali Akbar and Anwar Hossain at Madhya Guapara and Manjurul Kabir and Moniruzzaman of Shuvarajkati villages, and took away the valuables. Four people were injured as the robbers attacked them with sharp weapons when some inmates tried to resist them. Separate cases were filed.

RAKUB to disburse Tk 22.25cr agri-loan

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has taken up a programme to disburse Tk 22.25 crore agri-loan in Chapainawabganj in the current fiscal year

The bank has already disbursed Tk 6.91 crore among 3,141 farmers for vegetable cultivation, buying agricultural inputs and bullocks and for pisciculture. RAKUB has also realised Tk 7.58 crore outstanding loan from 3,314 loan receivers during the period. Bank sources said the loan is being disbursed through 14 branches in Chapainawabganj.

Attack on Bangla weekly office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The office of a local weekly named Shahoshi Janata situated on new Dhaka Road in front of the Judge's court was attacked by some illegal toll collectors.

Police said some local toll collectors led by Selim came to the weekly office and forcefully entered into the office and demanded Tk 1.000 as toll from the Editor who refused to pay them illegal toll. At one stage of altercation among the newsmen and toll collectors, people from nearby assembled and chased them. Ultimately the illegal toll collectors fled away. A case has been lodged with Siraigani Sadar thana. Siraigani Press Club President Akhteruzzaman Bablu and GS Zakirul Islam jointly condemned the attack.

Sirajganj

killed in

Zilla School

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Boy kidnapped,

A seven-year-old boy who hap pened to be a student of class two was kidnapped and murdered by At least four persons were injured the Sarbahara (outlaws), activists a in a clash between activists of Magura Binod village in Chalan Beel Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) area of Tarash upazila on Monday night. and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS)

The victim was identified as on the Government BL College Aminul Islam, 7, son of Sekendar Ali of the aforementioned village Two of the injured have been Police said on January 3 evening Sarbahara Party activists numberidentified as Haider of ICS and ing about eight led by party leader Lablu of Bangladesh Chhatra Abdus Sobhan of village Magura League. Lablu was beaten badly Sukando village kidnapped the little by the Shibir activists with sticks. boy at gun point and demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom from the victim's Eyewitnesses said JCD activfather who denied to pay the money. ists came under attacks by the As a result the kidnappeds mur-Shibir activists on the campus dered Aminul and threw the body in Later, the Shibir activists stormed the Magura binod Katakhali beel (a into Zoha, Mohsin and Titumir water body). Police recovered the body where they found many cut halls and ransacked all the marks on his body. A case has been rooms. They allegedly looted lodged with Tarash Police Station. money and other belongings of Acting on a secret information police the students aligned with JCD. raided the area and arrested five They further said the activists Sarbahara party activists including its leader Sobhan. Other arrested of both the groups used firearms persons are: Abdur Rahman, Ahsan and handmade bombs and hurled Habib (Liton) of village Biaghat of brickbats at all the classrooms Gurudaspur in Natore and Nasim of where Masters students sat for village Magura Sukando in Tarash upazila of Siraigani.

Problems grip Kalia Municipality in Narail

UNB, Narail

their examinations.

The taxpavers of Kalia Municipality are not getting minimum civic amenities as the Municipality is facing

numerous problems since long. The Municipality was established in 1976 with 15,850 dwellers on 9 squares miles area but now the population has been raised to 40.000.

After the expiry of over 25 years no tangible measures were taken to raise the civic amenities of the inhabitants.

Though it is a municipality but there is no water supply system and the people of the municipality are drinking tubewell water from its inception.

Besides, most of the roads under the municipality are kutcha and narrow. Only four to five miles roads are carpeted and four miles with

roads are in dilapidated condition since long and rickshaw accident is a regular phenomenon here.

system waters remain stagnant in most of the Municipality areas inundating the kutcha roads causing sufferings to the pedestrians.

are under electricity network and feature.

filled with water hyacinth have become the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes here.

When contacted Kabirul Haq Mukti, chairman of the Municipality said necessary steps to increase civic amenities could not be taker due to fund shortage

In absence of proper drainage

It is more painful that only two kilometers of the Municipality area erratic power supply is a common

All the ditches and derelict ponds

Herringbone Band. Moreover, these