

NEWS SNAPS

One killed by terrorists in Munshiganj

UNB, Munshiganj

A man was killed and his nephew injured in a terrorist attack in Makhati area in Sadar upazila of Munshiganj Sunday night.

Police said the terrorists chopped Ismail Molik, 55, over a land dispute when he was returning home from Bazaar. His nephew Arif, 18, was also injured when he went to resist them. Molik was rushed to hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead. A case was filed.

Mystery shrouds Babor's death

BSS, Rajshahi

Mystery is shrouding the death of Babor, 32, son of Khalilur Rahman of Shukdebpur village in Rajshahi as police sent his body to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue from Tanore Upazila Health Complex (TUHC) for autopsy.

Some unidentified youths brought Babor to TUHC on Friday in a critical condition where he died a few hours later. The victim was suspected to have been poisoned. According to police sources, the youths who brought Babor to the health complex very quickly left the hospital.

Woman strangled by armed robbers

UNB, Bagerhat

A woman was strangled by a gang of armed robbers at Gobordia village near Bagerhat town on Friday.

Police suspected that armed robbers strangled Amena Begum, aged over 40, to death as she recognized some of them, who went to her house to take shelter after being chased. On information, police recovered the body of Amena Begum from her house.

Two 'injured' by JCD activists in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Two people, including a physician, were critically injured in separate attacks allegedly by some activists of Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in Brunchang upazila of Comilla on Thursday-Friday.

Police said the JCD men stabbed Dr Mosharraf Hossain for toll Thursday. He was first admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital and later shifted to PG Hospital in Dhaka in a critical condition.

Steps to curb cheating in SSC exams protested

Natore students barricade highway

ANWAR ALI, Natore

About 100 examinees of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) barricaded the Natore-Pabna highway at Rajapur bazaar in Boraigram of Natore at around 12 pm on Monday protesting the stern measures taken by Rajshahi Education Board (REB) for holding the SSC examinations, scheduled to be started on March 14, in a free and fair atmosphere.

The Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Boraigram upazila, however, managed to persuade the agitating students to withdraw the barricade one and a half hours later.

The Rajshahi board authorities have taken a series of steps to

check unfair means at the examination halls.

Under the new steps, the examination centres of SSC examinees will be changed. No candidates can sit for the examinations at their own centres and their seats will be frequently changed.

The board has formed 103 special vigilance teams, each of them consists of five teachers from different schools and colleges to monitor the examination proceedings.

The authorities also formed five 'Jhatika' teams (teams for surprise visits) consisting of the board officials and college teachers to monitor the trouble making centres.

Besides, the deputy commis-

sioners of the concerned districts will form special vigilance teams of magistrates to check unfair means in the examination halls.

About 3,13,201 examinees, including 1,29,775 girls, from 4,354 schools of 16 districts of Rajshahi division are likely to take part in the SSC examinations at 212 centres this year.

While talking to The Daily Star, Prof Md Nazrul Islam, chairman of Rajshahi board told that all necessary measures have been taken to hold the examinations peacefully.

"No untoward incidents will be tolerated and persons held for any offence will be charged under the Public Examination Act", said the chairman.

Sirajganj: A class one municipality only in name

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

The residents of Sirajganj Municipality are deprived of civic amenities for a long time.

Although the population of the municipality is increasing day by day, yet the municipality authorities are not providing basic civic amenities to them.

Sirajganj Municipality was established in 1876. At present the population in the municipality area is 1,30,000. It was upgraded into A grade in 1992, but the facilities of a first class municipality are not available here.

Town dwellers suffer much due to absence of proper drainage system, deplorable condition of roads, inadequate streetlight, lack of proper sanitary system, frequent traffic jam and absence of recreational facilities.

Absence of proper drainage system is a major problem in the municipality area. The town dwellers face difficulties due to stagnation of water in drains. Most of the drains are filled with filth and garbage which are not cleaned properly.

In many areas there are no drains. During the rainy season the drains are accumulated with dirt and filth. It poses as health hazard to the inhabitants of the municipality, especially during the rainy seasons. Due to lack of proper maintenance and repair work, most of the roads are in deplorable condition.

The damaged roads are Diar Dhangara Road, Saygobindo Road, Masumpur and Shahendnagar (Baparipara) Road. Cracks and potholes have been developed at many points of the roads. The number of damaged roads increased.

Meanwhile, the road starting from Saygobindo flattened rice mill to Moulana Bashani Road, Sadarpara Road, Shahendnagar (Baparipara) Road are in bad shape. SS Road, Mujib Road, New Dhaka Road are the main roads of the town, but the pedestrians can not even walk easily through these roads.

Most covers of the drains are broken and the footpaths are generally occupied with makeshift shop owners. Some roads of the town are very narrow which are unfit to ply even two rickshaws at a time. Sardear Para Road starting from the flattened rice mill to Bashani Road is such a bad road. After slight rainfall most of the roads become muddy and slippery. Rain water remains

stagnant on the roads, causing difficulties and sufferings to the passers-by and vehicular movement.

Violation of traffic rules has become a normal affair. It causes a serious traffic jam in different points of the town. Sirajganj tempo stand, Sayadhangara Road, Raipur station road and Mirpur crossing point are seriously affected by traffic jams.

Because of increase in number of rickshaws traffic jam has become a regular phenomenon here. According to official sources in Sirajganj Municipality, there are 4,200 licensed rickshaws on the road, but actually about 1,000 rickshaws are playing on the roads here.

Street lights are inadequate while most street lights have broken down or gone out of order for a long time. Most of the roads and residential areas go under darkness just after the sunset.

Sanitary system of the town is not satisfactory. A few dustbins have been set up in the town which always remain unclean. Garbages of the drains are not removed at day time creating obnoxious odour. Some people who are floating, respond to the call of nature in roadside places and drains causing inconvenience to common people. Consequently the environment of the surroundings is polluted. Besides, some dwellers of the municipality are still using kutchha latrines.

There is a children's park on Fazlul Haque Road in front of the rectified spirit sellers shops here, but nobody takes care of it. As a result the park has been abandoned. Now it has been turned into a grazing field and so-called prostitutes remain engaged in anti-social activities.

When contacted with an officer of the municipality, he informed that the children's park is not the property of the municipality. It is under the supervision of the district administration.

The residents of the municipality have urged the authorities concerned to take proper steps to mitigate their sufferings.

Death anniversary

The 23rd anniversary of death of former member of parliament (MP), organiser of our liberation war and leader of anti-British movement Bijoy Chatterjee will be held today (Wednesday), says a press release.

On this day in 1979 he died of heart attack.

On the occasion Bijoy Chatterjee Memorial Committee has chalked out a programme of memorial meeting, distribution of prizes among the successful students and photo exhibition at the premises of 'Chatterjee Memorial' at Zinardi in Palash thana of Narsingdi.

Chatterjee took part in various democratic movements of our country till the time of his death. He played a vital role in building a peasants' movement at Raipura in Narsingdi.

Attack protested

UNB, Narail

Local Awami League (AL) held a rally in front of Narail Press Club Saturday protesting attack on Sheikh Hasina's motorcade in Narail.

The rally was addressed, among others, by district Awami League leaders Adv Sohrab Hossain and Adv Syed Muhammad Ali and Jubo League leaders Nizamuddin Khan Nilu and Adv Saiful Islam.

Comilla AL leader dead

BSS, Comilla

Vice President of Brahmanpara Upazila Awami League and eminent social worker Kazi Abu Taher died of old age complications in Comilla on Tuesday.

He was 65.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru expressed deep shock at the death of Taher.

In a message, he conveyed his deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Top terror of Faridpur killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Jahangir Hossain, Labu, 30, a top terror of Faridpur town was first shot at and later slaughtered to death reportedly by his accomplices recently.

He was wanted in eight criminal cases.

Labu along with his two accomplices left his Alipur house in the town at 1 pm for Doulatdia in Rajbari by a motor cycle. On his way when they reached a place named Jamtali in Rajbari, his rivals intercepted his motor-cycle, took Labu to nearby crop-field and shot him from close range. Later they slaughtered him to death with a sharp weapon.

Day in, day out in utter disorder

NAZRUL ISLAM, back from Rajshahi

In the wake of violence everywhere, general people in three districts of Rajshahi region have appealed for restoration of peace and tranquility in society.

They also appealed to the administration to keep control of prices of essentials within reach of common people.

Life in rural areas in Rajshahi, Naogaon and Natore has become unbearable due to violent activities by the people of influential section, sheltered by the ruling party. Using the administrative influence, the ruling partymen have been carrying on activities like extortion, terrorism, violence, rape, murder, loot and arson since the BNP-Jamaat coalition came to power in October last year. They are also giving death threat to people.

People from different strata of life in the three districts informed The Daily Star about their miserable situation. The Daily Star correspondent interviewed as many as 100 people including farmers, lawyers, politicians, journalists, school teachers, day labourers and destitutes during a five-day visit to the region last week. The correspondent found none happy in the existing situation. Most of the people who were interviewed deplored the govern-

ment for recent incidents of terrorism and rapes allegedly committed by the ruling party and Jamaat activists. They also criticised the government's recent decision of price-hike in oil, gas and electricity which directly affected the common people in rural localities.

"We need peace, not anarchy," said Ayub Ali, a farmer working in the Barind Multipurpose Development Project, referring to recent politicisation in agricultural sector. This happened for the first time that 15 or 16 years, he revealed.

Nazrul Islam Khan, a senior lawyer in Rajshahi, observed that the people by this time have changed their mind. But they are not organised enough to protest atrocities, sponsored by the terrorists who used to take benefit of power by change their colours when the government changes.

Incidents of harassment caused from political rivalry are frequent in the villages. "But, common people have to tolerate these, fearing fresh harassment like Mahima or Sabina," said a schoolteacher at Poulstra Daripara village of Gurudaspur in Natore said. Preferring anonymity, he added many have been concealing the incident for the sake of their social dignity.

Asked to comment on the government's achievements in last four months, Abdul Alim, a marginal

peasant in Puthia in Rajshahi said, "We have to live from hand to mouth. We spend all the time to manage our bread and butter. Where we have time to think of government's success?"

He wants the price of essentials be within his boundaries of capacity so that he can comfortably live with his family members.

Stories of similar incidents have been reported in the newspapers from all other parts of the country including capital Dhaka City, showing a grim picture of law and order. But, in every incident, the government refuted.

According to available statistics, crime rates have alarmingly increased in recent time. Presently 10 people are being killed everyday, 37 women repressed and other crimes has also marked high in the crime index.

The incidents of gang-rape and killings incidents of Mahima and Sabina in Rajshahi and Natore, two northern districts, respectively, opened up the eyes of the civil society, who protested these heinous acts. The local ruling party activists were allegedly involved in the two incidents. Being, pressurized, police arrested some of the culprits.