

NEWS SNAPS

Armed terrorists loot shops in Laxmipur

UNB, Laxmipur

Armed terrorists stormed into Mirikpur Bazaar, fired gunshots, exploded crackers and looted shops Monday night.

The gang also beat up the shopkeepers. Wounded shopkeeper Abdur Rahman said about 30 terrorists entered into the bazaar, ransacked 35 shops and took away cash and goods worth Tk 5 lakh. Laxmipur police was informed about the incident. None was arrested till Tuesday evening.

One kills wife, daughter in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A woman along with her little daughter was killed allegedly by her husband at Khorchaka village in Godagari Upazila Tuesday midnight.

According to police, Piyarul, assisted by his first wife Mayura and their son Nayan, killed his second wife and their daughter inside their room, and then set the room on fire. Police arrested Piyarul.

Witness in murder case chopped by armed gang

UNB, Bagerhat

Armed gang severely chopped a witness in a murder case on the court premises in Bagerhat on Wednesday.

Court sources said the gang swooped on Jamal Sheikh, 35, when he and two other witnesses in Nazma murder case came out of the court building at noon. He was rushed to the Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Nazma was killed at Jatrapur village in Sadar upazila in 2000. Aiyub Kazi and Babul Nikari of the same village are accused in the murder case. The lawyer for the plaintiff blamed the accused persons for the attack on Jamal.

Satkhira journalist hurt by 'BNP terrorist'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A local journalist was critically injured in an attack by terrorists allegedly belonging to Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at Tala upazila headquarters on Monday.

The victim, MA Faisal, Tala correspondent of the daily 'Runner' published from Jessore, came under attack for writing a story published on April 3, where he described an incident of snatching of tender documents from contractors by BNP activists in front of the upazila Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) office on April 2. Angered by the report, the terrorists kidnapped the journalist and took him behind Tala Government College where they beat him with iron rods. Later, local people rescued Faisal and took him to Tala hospital in a critical condition. The victim's left leg is broken, said an on-duty doctor. The terrorists also threatened the journalist with dire consequences if he filed any case against them. Journalists of Satkhira condemned the attack and demanded arrest and punishment of the culprits.

Bid to foil abduction of youth: Two hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two villagers received bullet injuries while attempting to foil the abduction of a young man by terrorists at Durgapur Upazila on Wednesday noon.

According to police, a gang of terrorists including a student of Rajshahi University (RU), raided the house of another RU student Rupak at Devipur, and tried to abduct him at gunpoint. As Rupak's brother Ratan raised the alarm and villagers rushed to the spot to save Rupak, one of the terrorists Manik fired six bullets to disperse the villagers injuring two of them.

The injured were identified as Abdul Jabbar, a peon of Durgapur AC (Land) office, and Ismail. They were admitted to Durgapur Health Complex. The terrorists managed to flee leaving behind a motorbike and a mobile telephone set. Police seized the goods. Rupak and those who tried to kidnap him are friends and also activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). Two separate cases were registered with Durgapur thana in this connection.

Police-gamblers clash leaves 50 injured

UNB, Kurigram

Some 50 people were injured in clashes between police and gamblers at Jatra functions at Taleber Hat and Ratanpur areas in Nageswari upazila in Kurigram Thursday night.

Police said the clashes erupted between the law enforcers and Jatra arrangers, mainly the gamblers, as police started to vacate them. Police had to fire 21 rounds of shots in the air to bring the situation under control. Police arrested a gambler along with gambling tools during the operation.

Drive to disconnect telephone lives in Gopalganj

UNB, Gopalganj

Local Telegraph and Telephone (T&T) office started a drive to disconnect the telephone lines in Gopalganj aiming to realise the outstanding bills from its subscribers.

Officials sources said a total of Tk 2.5 crore has been lying outstanding with various subscribers till December 2001. Of the total unpaid bill, Tk 1.5 crore have been lying outstanding with over 100 government offices, Tk 20 lakh with owners of phone-fax shops, Tk 10 lakh with the politicians and Tk 25 lakh with the officers and staffs of T&T.

Candidates violating electoral code of conduct in Rajshahi

ABDUL WADOOD, Rajshahi

As the date of election is coming nearer, the candidates are becoming more and more desperate and violating the electoral code of conduct.

But authorities concerned are yet to take action in this regard.

Erecting gates and hanging banner are prohibited. But most candidates are not following the codes.

The left leaning 11-party mayoral candidate Advocate Fazle Hossain Badsha has hanged a good number of coloured banners in most busy places in the city. When contacted, Badsha acknowledged that use of banners are prohibited in the election campaigns and said, "This has been done by the over-enthusiastic supporters without decision of my election-conducting committee." I already asked the supporters not to do such unethical work, he said. He further said that almost all the mayor and ward commissioner candidates hanged such banners.

SM Basharuazzaman, mayor candidate from Jatiya Party (Ershad) erected a grand number of colourful gate on the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in front of his commercial super-

market at Shaheb Bazaar in the city. He also hanged some colourful banners.

Basharuazzaman said he does not know that erecting gates and hanging banners are violation of election code of conduct. We shall pull down the gate and the banners, he said.

Four-party Alliance candidate Mijanur Rahman Minu, MP, erected a banner in front of the local office of BNP at Sonadighi crossing. Minu could not be contacted for comments. Azizur Rahman, BNP city unit general secretary, said that they had no such decision of hanging banners. "We are not aware of such banner," he said adding that over-enthusiastic party activists might have done this. It will be removed, he said.

At least 60 per cent of 270 ward commissioner candidates are violating the electoral code of conduct by hanging colorful banners.

Official source of the Deputy Election Commissioner here said that they had not received so far any complaint regarding gates and banners. "If we get any allegation of violation of electoral code of conduct, we shall, at once, ask Rajshahi Metropolitan Police to take necessary measures," said an Election

Commission official.

Some candidates are allegedly making personal attacks on the opponents. Leaf-lets are being released with indecent stories about the opponent candidates destroying the electoral environment.

Incidents of threats, harassments and beating are increasing. The house of a ward commissioner candidate Nuruzzaman of Ward No. 1 had been set ablaze last Sunday allegedly by the supporters of an opponent candidate. Two election-workers of a ward commissioner candidate had been beaten by the people of an opponent candidate in Shiroli area last week.

Election workers of Minu and Badsha clashed at Noodapara this week as a sequel to threats and counter threats.

The office of the Deputy Election Commissioner has so far received two complaints.

RMP sources said, they are investigating the matter and have taken measures to ensure free and peaceful environment of election all over the city.



A colourful banner (top) and a gate (bottom) in Rajshahi city prove that the candidates of city corporation elections are violating the polls code of conduct frequently.

Record number of children given OPV in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A total of one lakh eighty-three thousands and nine hundred thirty (1,83,930) children of age under five were targeted for oral polio vaccine (OPV) in Gopalganj.



PHOTO: STAR

Gopalganj Municipality chairman Mohammad Ali Khan feeding polio vaccine to a child on the occasion of National Immunisation Day.

A total of 1,89,085 children were vaccinated this time which exceeded the target.

The target was achieved on the 10th National Immunisation Day (NID) recently.

A total of 1,000 health and family planing workers and 8,890 volunteers were engaged in 1,778 NID vaccination centres across the district.

Five hundred twenty-nine NID vaccination centres were established in Gopalganj Sadar upazila, 354 centres in Kasiani upazila, 303 centres in Kotalipara upazila, 429 centres in Muksudpur upazila, 129 vaccination centres in Tungipara upazila and 34 vaccination centres in Gopalganj municipality.

In Sadar upazila 46,032 children were given OPV, in Kasiani upazila 33,199, in Kotalipara upazila 33,365, in Muksudpur upazila

Strike at state-owned mills in Khulna Apr 15

UNB, Khulna

An eight-hour strike will be observed in all state-owned mills and factories in Khulna on April 15.

The programme was announced from a rally of the workers of Khulna Newsprint Mills and various jute mills here on Monday.

Workers of Khulna Newsprint Mills and some jute mills put up barricade on Khulna-Jessore highway for nearly an hour protesting the government decision to privatise the mills.

Thousands of workers from Newsprint Mills, and Star, Doulatpur and Peoples Jute Mills gathered at BADC road and the reached on Khulna-Jessore road with a procession. They staged there a sit-in demonstration.

Drive to control anti-social activities

UNB, Chandpur

A mobile court aided by police arrested 11 people and dismantled one circus and five puppet show pandels at Badarpur village in Matlab Uttar upazila Wednesday.

Of the arrested, four were from circus party and seven others involved in narcotics business. During the 3-hour drive starting at 4pm, furniture, including two generators, a huge quantity of bulbs, microphone worth about Tk several lakhs were seized.