

SNAPS

Political parties to help admin combat crime in N'ganj

UNB, Narayanganj

Leaders of different political parties have assured the district administration of all-out cooperation to help maintain law and order.

The assurance came during a meeting with new Deputy Commissioner Harun Rashid at his office on Thursday.

Among others, Police Super Helal Uddin Badri, BNP leader Adv Toymur Alam Khandaker, Majul Islam of Awami League, Mainuddin Ahmed of Jamaat, Mohiuddin Altaf of Jatiya Party and Bazlul Haq of OIJ spoke.

They also agreed to build a crime-free modern Narayanganj. The meeting also decided to launch combing operations to arrest the listed criminals.

Lightning kills 4

UNB, Rangpur

Two persons were killed and six others injured in lightning here on Tuesday.

Locals said Kamrunnah Begum, 14, and Shafiq Islam, 17, were killed and six others were injured as lightning struck their house at Paschimpara village in Badarganj upazila.

Housewife dies from snakebite

UNB, Manikganj

A housewife was killed from snakebite at Sholdhara village in Ghior upazila on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Begum, 40, wife of Dr Bahez.

Workshop on rural dev

UNB, Munshiganj

A daylong workshop was held for implementing 'Palli Pragati Project' at the auditorium of Bangladesh Rural Development Board in Tongbari on Saturday.

Director General of Rural Development Board AFM Matiur Rahman was the chief guest. A total of 190 members of village union and upazila committees and village organisers participated in the workshop.

More BRTC buses likely for Rajshahi division

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The newly appointed commissioner of Rajshahi Division, Mian Mushtaque Ahmed, exchanged views with journalists on matters of public interest at his office here on Saturday.

He discussed various problems in the region and said free interaction with media men and their constructive role can play a vital role in solving those.

He said more BRTC buses will be pressed into service in the region and the people's demand for three trains on Rajshahi-Dhaka route will be placed before the authorities concerned.

Additional Commissioner K M Rafiqul Islam, DDLG Jagadish Chandra Pandit and others high officials were also present at the meeting.

A section of private sector transport workers earlier obstructed plying of BRTC buses in Bogra.

Irregularities in Chittagong transport union alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A faction of the Arakan Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union here on Saturday accused the present committee of the organisation of "massive irregularities and corruption".

Leaders of the faction at a press conference at the local press club said election to the executive committee of the organisation was not held in more than a decade.

The same committee has been in office for long and it did not place any report before the members.

The committee members misappropriated its funds and whoever tried to protest came under attack by "hired goons", they alleged.

The transport workers blamed general secretary of the South-Eastern Sramik Federation Mohammad Yeakub Ali and his hired goons for this.

Mohammad Alamgir read out a written statement at the press conference where Md. Ismail, Bhutto, Md. Osman, Azim and Md Ismail were present.



PHOTO: STAR

Flash flood inundated 22 unions in Rajnagar, Kamalganj, Kulaura and Sreemangol upazilas in Moulvibazar district. The situation is likely to deteriorate as all the rivers in the region including the Monu and the Dhalai are rising with onrush of water from the upstream. Picture shows (left to right) inundated houses of Aqua village in Rajnagar upazila and a submerged road in Kamalganj upazila town.

Crimes in S-W region

BNP's Selim, AL's Khaleque blame each other

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

President of Bagerhat district BNP MAH Selim MP has sought active co-operation from opposition Awami League (AL) leaders in containing crimes.

He refuted allegations that BNP has unleashed a "reign of terror" in Bagerhat and that it is not allowing AL to hold any rally and public meeting.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday Selim blamed former state minister Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP for "creating lawless-

ness in Bagerhat by making an unholy alliance with extremists". He called upon Bagerhat AL leaders to shun "politics of hooliganism and destruction".

The BNP leader said none of his party leaders and activists created any problem in peaceful holding of the by-election to the post of chairman of Mongla Pourasava. The election was absolutely free and fair and the verdict of voters went in favour of the AL-backed candidate.

Selim alleged that Talukder Khaleque has been "assigned" by his party's high command to "create unrest" in Bagerhat for making it a hot political issue. The four-party alliance is committed to foil such conspiracy, he added.

When contacted, Talukder, who is also Khulna City AL president termed Selim "a liar".

Denying the allegations, he said Selim has taken administration in Bagerhat in his grip. "He is harbouring extremists in the South-Western region and nurturing them for killing Awami League leaders", Khaleque said.

Tk 140.49 cr unrealised in eight dists under Rajshahi PDB zone

BSS, Rajshahi

The Power Development Board has Tk 140.49 cr unrealised bills in its Rajshahi distribution zone.

The defaulters include state-owned and private enterprises institutions and the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), PDB sources said.

PDB filed 1950 cases in the three circles till April this year and disconnected 21,700 connections including 2652 illegal ones.

The distribution zone comprises eight districts under the Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra PDB circles.

PDB failed to collect the dues despite serving notices repeatedly, they said.

The circle-wise breakup of the outstanding bills are: Tk 38.31 crore in Rajshahi circle, Tk 30.24 crore in Bogra and Tk 71.93 crore in Pabna circle.

The amounts outstanding are Tk 19.07 crore with RCC, Tk 2.55 crore with Rajshahi Jute Mills, Tk 7.88 crore with Kowmi Jute Mills in Sirajganj, Tk 2.27 crore with Sirajganj Spinning and Cotton Mills, Tk 4.55 crore with Northern Paper Mills at Paksey, Tk 2.93 crore with Bogra

Pourasava, Tk 0.91 crore with Joypurhat Pourasava and Tk 42 lakh with Chemical Industries at Ishwardi.

The sources said PDB authorities have launched an action programme against the illegal and defaulting subscribers to enhance revenue collection as well as to reduce the system loss.

Apart from this, a motivation campaign through distribution of leaflets, miking and display of banners has been launched to realise the outstanding bills.

Asir Uddin Ahmed

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A noted educationist has been honoured posthumously for his extraordinary contributions in the field of education.

The Dhaka-based Nilphamari Zila Samity awarded a crest to late Asir Uddin Ahmed, former headmaster of Nilphamari Model High School (now Nilphamari Government Boys' High School).

The late educationist's son ZAM Khairuzzaman, a journalist of The Daily Star, received the award at a function held at the Planning and Development Academy, Nilkhel on Friday.

Asaduzzaman Noor, member of parliament from Nilphamari Sadar constituency handed over the crest as the chief guest.

The Nilphamari samity also posthumously honoured two others -- Dabiruddin Ahmed and Dr Mohammad Mozammel Hossain and two other living personalities -- Alhaj Bazlur Rahman Chowdhury and Md Lutfar Rahman.

Road accidents kill 2 in Gopalganj, Sirajganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two persons were killed and at least 25 including a policeman injured, nine of them seriously, in two road accidents in Gopalganj and Sirajganj on Saturday.

Our Gopalganj correspondent reported that one person was killed and at least 15 were injured, nine of them seriously when a Gopalganj-bound bus collided with a truck near the Petrol Pump area on the Sirajganj-Bogra road.

The dead young man is the son of one Sukur Ali of Raghunath village under the Sadar thana, police said. The injured policeman Shahed Ali has been sent to the Pangu Hospital in Dhaka. Others were treated at local clinics. Police seized the bus but the driver escaped.

Shilpi, Rokeya, Jahangir, Farid Ahmed, Kanan and Rabiu Alam.

The body of Soma Mia has been sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy. Police seized the bus but the driver fled away.

In Sirajganj, young man Habibur Rahman died and ten people including a policeman were injured when a Sirajganj-bound bus collided with a truck near the Petrol Pump area on the Sirajganj-Bogra road.

The dead young man is the son of one Sukur Ali of Raghunath village under the Sadar thana, police said. The injured policeman Shahed Ali has been sent to the Pangu Hospital in Dhaka. Others were treated at local clinics. Police seized the bus but the driver escaped.

Cadets launch tree plantation

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) units from Dhaka University and Mohastangor jointly launched a tree plantation programme in Godagari upazila in Rajshahi on Saturday.

About 30,000 timber and medicinal saplings will be distributed in Godagari-Sarmonia area under the programme, the organisers said.

Post and Telecommunication Minister Md Aminul Haq inaugurated the programme.

BNCC Director Brigadier General Md Rafiqur Rahman, Kakonhat Municipal Chairman Abdul Majid, Godagari Municipal Chairman Anwarul Islam and local BNP leader Ahmed Ali Sarkar also spoke on the occasion.

Findings of a survey on local govt

Women's representation in UPs not effective

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Women's representation in Union Parishads (UPs) is not effective.

This was stated by 45.5 per cent of women respondents during an opinion poll on local government.

The opinion poll conducted by Local Government Initiative (LGI), an NGO, covered 3,000 households in the six divisions. The findings were presented at a seminar in Sylhet on Thursday, held in collaboration with FIVDB.

The respondents replied to 96 questions on local government and governance-related issues.

Poor women sharply criticised the role of female UP members in representing women's interest.

However, women of higher socio-economic status tended to be less critical.

Civil society members, politi-

cians, journalists and representatives of local governments and NGOs also gave their opinions at the seminar.

Ninety-seven per cent of the respondents thought that members of parliament (MPs) were involved in securing funds for development projects in UPs while 95.9 per cent wanted MPs to be more involved in such activities.

Of the respondents, 70.7 per cent wanted a greater role of MPs in school management committees and 44.8 per cent wanted their greater role in UPs.

Of the respondents, 99.9 per cent identified party affiliations of former UP chairmen.

Most of the respondents support elected bodies at other levels. About 71.6 per cent wanted an elected local government at Upazila while 68.7 per cent wanted Gram Sarkar.

Only 11.3 per cent said they had gone to UPs to resolve problems.

According to them, functions of UPs are maintenance of roads, bridges and culverts; resolution of disputes; and ensuring law and order.

They also said UPs do not have important roles in delivering social services like in health and education sectors or in social welfare.

Around 87.7 per cent said UP chairmen are usually partisan. They are involved in party politics, according to 64.9 per cent of the respondents.

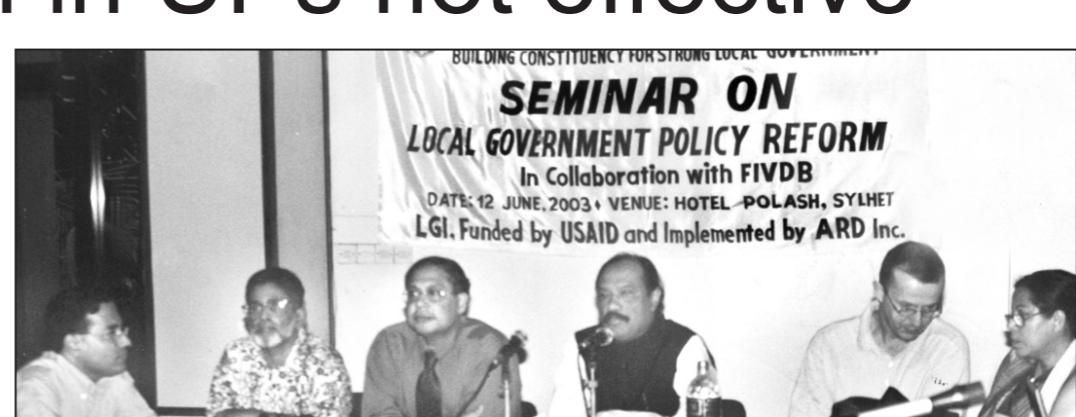
Of the respondents, 99.9 per cent identified party affiliations of former UP chairmen.

Most of the respondents support elected bodies at other levels. About

71.6 per cent wanted an elected local government at Upazila while 68.7 per cent wanted Gram Sarkar.

PHOTO: STAR

Badrul Uddin Ahmed Kamran, Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on Local Government Policy Reform, organised by the Local Government Initiative in collaboration with FIVDB. Findings of the opinion poll were presented at the seminar, held at a hotel in Sylhet city on Thursday.



Demand for probe into Kalpana's disappearance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Hill Students Council, student body of Parbattya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), held a protest meeting at the Shilpkola Academy auditorium here on Thursday marking the 7th year of alleged abduction of Kalpana Chakma, a leader of Hill Women's Federation.

Kalpana was allegedly kidnapped on June 12, 1996 from Laillyaghuna village under Baghaichori upazila, a press release of the Council said.

Speakers at the meeting demanded proper investigation to the incident and punishment of the persons responsible.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) member Usaton Talukder was the chief guest at the meeting, presided over by Asheen Chakma, Rangamati unit president of the Council.

It was addressed by, among others, PCJSS leader Gunendu Bikash Chakma and Council leaders Shudhirkha Chakma, Bidhayok Chakma and Tulu Marma.

Young man killed in road mishap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A young medical representative was killed in a road accident in the city on Saturday.

Tanvir Kabir, 30, senior medical information officer of Aventis, died on the spot when his motorcycle was knocked down by a truck in front of Chittagong port jetty.

The PCJSS press release said UPDF activists barricaded the Rangamati-Mahalchhori road and chanted slogan against PCJSS.

The PCJSS press release said UPDF activists barricaded the Rangamati-Mahalchhori road and chanted slogan against PCJSS.

Earlier, UPDF filed another case against 19 PCJSS leaders and activists of its Khagrachari district unit after its (UPDF) Khagrachari office was torched on May 12, the PCJSS press release said.

Tanvir's college AB Zahedul filed a case.

RU awards Diploma on IT certificates

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi University (RU) Computer Science Department yesterday awarded certificates to 55 students on completion of Postgraduate Diploma in IT course.

RU Vice-chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki distributed the certificates at a function held at the Senate Bhaban.

Director of the course Khaja Zakiria presided over the function, also attended by Pro VC KHM Shahadat Hossain Mondol and other senior teachers and officials.

Bodies of schoolgirl, man recovered