

SNAPS

Loan for goat rearing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
Bauphal upazila administration distributed 15 lakh taka among 85 poor and landless people for goat rearing.

BNP member of parliament (MP) Shahidul Alam Talukder distributed the money at the upazila auditorium as a chief guest. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nurunnabi presided over the meeting.

Two choked to death in Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Two labourers were choked to death in a well in Sazzadkanda area in Rajbari town on Friday. The dead victims are Mansur Sardar, 18, and Iman Ali, 20. According to fire brigade sources, both the victims went down the well to clean it at about 4 pm. But after an hour they died.

Fire brigade officials said they might have suffocated due to poisonous gas in the well. Police recovered the bodies and sent those to Rajbari Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

'Killer' UP leader's arrest demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Hundreds of villagers brought out a procession at Chalitabunia bazaar in Galachipa upazila on Friday demanding death sentence to Union Parishad (UP) chairman Liton Talukder, an absconding accused in triple murder case.

After the procession a meeting was held where local leaders Gagi Habibur Rahman, Sattar Howlader, Abdul Latif Munshi and Milon Gazi addressed.

Local people and police sources said that Chalitabunia UP chairman Liton Talukder, UP, is one of eight accused in a triple murder case.

Six months pregnant domestic help Shahinoor, 25, and her seven-year-old child Selina were killed on May 24, 2003.

Shahinoor's mother filed a case under Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain. All eight accused are family members of the UP Chairman who is accused number 3 in the case.

The Patuakhali District and Sessions Judge has issued a warrant of arrest against all the accused on May 23.

Outlaws to 'avenge killing' of party men by joint forces

Over 100 'killed' in 4 months in S-W region, PBCP fax messages claim: Intelligence sources term situation 'grave', suggest change in policy.

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Extremists belonging to the two main outlawed parties are preparing to avenge alleged killing of over 100 party leaders and armed cadres during the anti-crime drive by joint forces in South-Western region in last four months.

According to fax messages received at local newspaper offices from PBCP (M-L) and PBCP (Janajuddho), 51 leaders and 54 cadres were allegedly killed by law enforcers during the period.

Top leaders of these two underground organisations have given "death threats" to some members of law enforcing agencies, accusing them for the "killings". They have taken as a challenge

the killings of two 'regional leaders'- Amit Hasan of PBCP (Purba Banglar Communist Party--Janajuddho) and Abdur Rashid Shaikh Alias Tapu of PBCP (M-L) in police custody. They have vowed to give a "befitting reply" to the joint forces, according to the messages received recently.

This has created a panic among members of joint forces and people.

Sources in some intelligence agencies have termed the situation in South-Western region "grave" and suggested a change in the policy. "Extremists should be dealt with without creating panic and resorting to adventure, they say. Anti-crime drive by joint forces was intensified in the region in

January against the backdrop of an alarming rise in "targeted murders" last year.

According to records available with the Range DIG office, 583 persons including 12 policemen were murdered in the region last year, forcing joint forces to adopt new tactics and a rigid stand against extremists.

"Accordingly, we finished for good over 100 extremists during the anti-crime drive", said DIG Abdul Aziz Sarker.

But he refuted the claim that law enforcers directly and intentionally killed them. "All the extremists were killed during crossfire when my forces came under fierce armed attack", he said. According to police records,

276 murders were committed since January this year in the S-W region. Of these, 51 died in police custody and 45 were killed in mass beating by mobs in January.

In February, six out of 49 deaths took place in police custody. The number of custodial deaths rose to 19 out of total 69 in March, 13 out of 64 in April and 10 out of 49 till May 26 this year in the region.

But leaders of the two factions of PBCP do not believe that any of their cadres was lynched by mob.

"People and the media are being blackmailed by police", said Mofakkhar Chowdhury, secretary of PBCP (M-L) in a recent fax message to a local newspaper office.

Jamaat MP defends OC with alleged links with outlaws

Home ministry probing charge against Dumuria thana OC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Lawmaker and Khulna City Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Mian Golam Parwar has defended Dumuria thana OC Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal who faces charges for alleged links with outlaws, excesses during anti-crime drive and corruption.

The home ministry ordered probe into the charges.

The lawmaker from Jamaat obviously tried to prove by a typed statement that the probe ordered by home ministry against the OC is an "improper step" and will obstruct improvement of the law and order situation and drive by joint forces against outlaws in Dumuria upazila, he told a press conference at the Khulna Press Club on Thursday. It was held under the banner of 'Dumuria Upazila Law and Order Committee'.

Parwar, elected from Khulna-5 constituency, was accompanied by eleven out of 14 Union Parishad chairmen in Dumuria upazila. There are allegations that the UP chairmen present in the press conference enjoy blessings of Mrinal Goshai, chief of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party

(NBCP). Mrinal is wanted by police in cases in connection with at least 30 murders and toll collection from over 200 shrimp farms in Dumuria upazila.

It was later learnt from some of the UP chairmen that the notorious NBCP ringleader had a role in election of Parwar.

Mentionably, OC Abu Hena at a public meeting held on April 21 declared that 13 out of 14 UP chairmen in Dumuria had links with Mrinal Goshai.

At the press conference, the Jamaat MP did not reply when asked why he stood behind OC Abu Hena.

Chairman of Maguraghona Union Parishad in Dumuria, Shaikh Abu Hossain, later told this correspondent that they were "forced both by the MP and the OC" to attend the press conference.

When asked on Friday, the Jamaat lawmaker reaffirmed his stand in defending OC Abu Hena, but admitted that it was not wise for him to remain present at the press conference along with the UP chairmen against whom allegations were made publicly that they had links with Mrinal. When contacted, the Dumuria UNO expressed surprise how the

UP chairmen could hold a press conference in Khulna city under the banner of Law and Order Committee without his consent. The UNO is ex-officio president of the upazila Law and Order Committee.

Outlaw nabbed from BNP leader's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An alleged ringleader of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (Mrinal faction), Ananda Mondol, was arrested on Friday from the house of Tala thana BNP General Secretary Mrinal Kanti Roy at Raipur village.

Ananda hails from Dumuria upazila in Khulna district. Tipped off, Sub-Inspector Azad of Dumuria thana with the help of Tala police raided the house and arrested Ananda.

Police said, Ananda is the second-in-command of NBCP (Mrinal faction) and an accused in Wahab murder case in Dumuria upazila. HC is wanted in connection with several other cases also, police said.

B'baria pouva polls

Defeated AL candidate files rigging case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Brahmanbaria district Awami League (AL) Organising Secretary Al Mamun Sarker, who lost the pourasabha chairman election to BNP leader Hafizur Rahman Mulla Kachi has filed a case alleging "rigging" in the polls, held on May 6.

He filed the case on May 26 with the court of Dilip Kumar Debnath, Joint District Judge and judge of the election tribunal.

He alleged rigging in its five polling centres---Madrassah Primary School, Tofael Azam Kinder Garten, Brahmanbaria Government College, Sahara Gafur Primary School and Poniant Primary School.

He claimed that except the five, he was leading by 2000 votes in the rest 33 centres. As there was massive rigging in the five centres, the results should be declared on the basis of the centres except the five, he claimed.

3 killed in Kushtia, Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three persons including a woman were killed by rivals in Kushtia and Chuadanga on Friday.

According to Kushtia police, rivals killed Rabiul Alam, 32, son of Akbar Ali of Sarishabari in Daulatpur upazila on the day.

Family source said local BNP leader Taizal and his accomplices attacked Rabiul with sharp weapons at about 2 pm when he was returning home after saying Friday prayers. He died on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital. In another incident, rival neighbours beat an elderly woman to death at village Fakirabad in Sadar upazila.

The dead is Azirun Nessa, 45, wife of Abdul Aziz.

Police said a gang of 10 criminals entered Aziz's house in a bid to kill him due to previous enmity. Sensing danger Azirun shifted her husband to a safe place. The miscreants beat Azirun severely who died on way to Kushtia General Hospital.

Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital for autopsy. Police arrested four persons Akter, Moslem, Thandu and Alim.

In Chuadanga the body of an outlawed party activist was found at village Fulbari in Sadar upazila on Friday.

According to police and family sources, the victim, Ismail Munshi, 45, was missing since Wednesday.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Chuadanga Sadar hospital.

NUPF, Manikganj unit executives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A 17-member executive committee of Manikganj district unit of National Union Parishad Forum (NUPF) was formed at a meeting held at town hall auditorium here on Thursday.

The office-bearers are: President- Abdul Quddus Khan Mojlish, vice-presidents-Abdus Sobahan, Abdul Jalil Mollah, Nargis Akter, secretary-Md Nurul Islam, joint secretary-Abdul Mannan, organising secretary-Nasirul Haque Khan, publicity secretary-Abdul Hashem Biswas, treasurer-Abdul Khaleque, office secretary-Serajul Islam, members-Md Samsul Alam Khan, Md Abdur Rouf, Alhaj Serajul Haque, Abdul Baten and three UP members Saidur Rahman Khan, Rehaj Uddin and Sahesta Begum. The meeting was presided over by Dighi UP chairman Nurul Islam.



Award winning former Abdur Razzak at his cucumber field. The photo was taken on Thursday.

A village of award winning marginal farmers

Intensive cultivation on small holdings bring affluence: Tk 50,000 profit from one crop on 0.6 decimal land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

It is a village of award winning farmers. All are small landholders, but solvent.

Abdur Razzak got the Presidential Award for agriculture in 1990. He got a record yield by growing hybrid cabbage using organic fertiliser. Next year, Kamrul Hasan Faruk got the award for outstanding performance. Faruk took to farming after obtaining the MA degree.

Kholahati village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila is well known in the official circle at the district headquarters as 10 to 15 farmers get awards at district agriculture fair every year. It is now a model village, about three kilometres from the district headquarters.

They are happy and successful farmers with unbelievably small land holdings ranging from 0.10 to 0.60 decimal per family.

Most of farmers are also environmentally conscious. They hardly use harmful pesticides. Ferromon traps evolved by the Bangladesh

Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) were seen on fields to kill insects.

But the scenario was not the same even ten years back, when starvation stalked the area due to recurring floods.

They changed their life by vegetable cultivation. The credit goes to Mosharaf Hossain, Block Supervisor of the Department of Agriculture Extension (AED) and other agriculture officials.

AED set up demonstration plots, motivated them to grow high yielding vegetables and provided all technical support and advice.

Marginal farmer Yesin Ali cultivated hybrid tomato on a 0.60 decimal land in the last season and earned Tk 50,000.

"Intensive cultivation is the main thing", he told this correspondent during a recent visit to the village. He was harvesting hybrid ladies finger. "Small holdings give better yields if scientific methods are applied and proper nursing is done", he said.

"Two bighas of land are enough for an average family for commercial cultivation of vegetables.

"Vegetable is more profitable than paddy, jute or sugarcane", he said.

Another farmer Abdul Jalil earned Tk 20,000 from summer vegetables on a 0.34 decimal plot in the last two months.

Abdul Quddus is a landless farmer. He grew vegetables on 0.42 decimal land as a share cropper. Quddus said he earned about Tk 15,000 by growing two summer vegetables in the last five months after giving the share to the landowner.

"We supply at least fifty percent of total demand for vegetables in Gaibandha town", said model farmer Kamrul Hasan Faruk.

Housewives in the village are not lagging behind.

Marjina Begum grows vegetables on their 0.40 decimal land adjacent to their house as her husband Akram Hossain remains engaged in the field. Like her, Shaikhda Begum, Anowera Bibi, Rahima Khatun also supplements their family income by raising vegetables on courtyards.



Satkhira unit of National Union Parishad Forum (NUPF) submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on Thursday to fulfill its 16-point demand to strengthen local bodies. This was preceded by a procession in the town.

Illegal motorbikes off Barisal city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police in a drive in the city have seized at least 20 illegal motorbikes and filed cases against 167 owners in the last five days.

The drive has been launched at the directive of newly appointed Police Superintendent Mainur Reza Chowdhury, police sources said.

The number of motorbikes on the city streets has decreased sharply since beginning of the drive.

Police are checking papers and fitness of motorcycles at several points in the city and realising fine. Motorcycles of Taslim, city JCD secretary and Mainul Islam Sohel, brother of city BNP Organizing Secretary Kamrul Ahsan Shahin were among those seized.

An amount of Tk 500 is realised for driving without helmet, Tk 2000 for lacking in documents, Tk 5000 for non-transfer of ownership, Tk 2000 for triple riding and Tk 2000 for not having insurance papers.

District BRTA sources said, they have received over 250 applications for registration of motorcycles in the last three days.

Sellers of motorcycle parts said they sold more than 1500 helmets since the drive was launched.

Some people in the town this correspondent talked to hailed the step as eve-teasing, toll collection and creating panic by motorcycle mounted political activists and criminals decreased.

Man slaughtered in Akhaura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

One person--Sheikh Shah Alam, 40--was slaughtered at Ranirkhar village in Akhaura upazila on Thursday night.

Police arrested the victim's step brother Badal and another person Md Imam Chowdhury.

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