

SNAPS

Rajbari gets half of power needed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Load shedding has virtually crippled life in Rajbari district. Businesspeople and owners of small mills and factories are the worst hit. People are to suffer 4-5 hours' load shedding everyday. According to Power Development Board (PDB) sources, the district needs about 10 megawatts daily but they can supply only 4-5 megawatts. The low supply is due to shortage in the national grid, said an official at Komopor grid substation. Talking to this correspondent, owners of some small factories said they have on the verge of closing their factories because of continuous production loss.

Muggers kill one, injure 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Muggers stabbed a man to death and injured two others on the Hospital Road at Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga district Monday night. Police said, Zahidul Islam, Hamidul and Sariful were going to hospital to see a patient. When they reached near Asik Mia Brick Field, the gang swooped them. The miscreants stabbed them and snatched their belongings. Zahidul Islam, 32, died on the spot and the two others were injured critically. They are being treated at the upazila health complex. Police sent the body to Chuadanga Sadar hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with Damurhuda police station.

Tk one lakh snatched from betel leaf trader

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Miscreants snatched Tk 1,00,000 from a betel leaf trader from near Patuaria ferry terminal on Monday. Three youths riding a motorcycle stopped Ranjit Saha of Maluchi village in Shivalaya when he was going to Patuaria in a rickshaw and snatched the money. When contacted Shivalaya police said they heard about the incident but none filed any case.

Woman held with forged note-making tools

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police yesterday arrested a woman and recovered appliances and chemicals used for making forged currency note from bordering Taluigachha village in the Sadar upazila. Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house and nabbed Romesa Khatun, 35, wife of Abdul Majid. A case has been filed, police said.

2 AL activists arrested by Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) members on Sunday arrested two Awami League (AL) activists from Chandipur in Bagha and Hamirkutsa in Bagmara upazilas.

The arrested persons are Rasel and Nazmul Islam Tipu.

Rab recovered a pistol from Rasel after raiding the house of his father Miad Ali, an AL leader. Tipu was arrested from his house at Hamirkutsa.

Their family members claimed they were arrested for political harassment and conspiracy.

Rab sources said that the arrested youths were not accused in any criminal case, but there were complaints against them of keeping illegal arms.

Politics makes two brothers arch foes

JP MP Karim Uddin Bhorosa says Rahim Uddin Bhorosa engaged "terrorists" to attack him: Rahim Uddin says Karim is "insane"

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Jatiya Party (Ershad) lawmaker and the party's Rangpur district president Karim Uddin Bhorosa yesterday alleged that he escaped an armed attack Monday evening, allegedly made by terrorists hired by his elder brother Rahim Uddin Bhorosa, a BNP leader.

The attack was made when he was leading a procession at Koshitari to campaign for his party candidate Anwarul Karim Maya in Haragachh municipal election.

The polls will be held today.

Karim filed a general diary with Koshitari thana, alleging that his "elder brother engaged terrorists to attack him". But he did not name any of the attackers.

"I could not recognise any of the attackers because it was evening", he told a press conference at his Haragachh house yesterday.

He alleged that having failed to defeat him thrice in parliamentary election, his elder brother has "adopted the path of terrorism to keep him away from campaigning in Haragachh municipal election".

Karim said, seeing armed youths, he ran away from the procession and entered a roadside house.

"This is an attack on free and fair municipal election", said.

He urged the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent to deploy more security forces during the polling.

Expressing his deep concern

over alleged terrorist activities in Haragachh ahead the polls, Karim said his brother has engaged "terrorists" in favour of his candidate Mamunur Rashid Mamun to create panic among voters to rig the polls.

When contacted later, Rahim Uddin Bhorosa denied the allegation, saying, "Karim is insane. It is not unusual for him to bring such an allegation against me."

The two brothers, who are political rivals for long, are desperate to get their candidates victorious in the local municipal polls as this would benefit them in the next parliamentary election.

Agartala bus service resumption uncertain

Bridge collapse in Akhaura also makes check post virtually inoperative

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Resumption of Dhaka-Agartala bus service is uncertain as steps are yet to be taken to repair the 50-feet Bailey bridge at Debogran in Akhaura upazila.

The service, which had resumed on August 14 after recession of floodwater, is suspended since collapse of the bridge on August 18.

This has also make the Akhaura check post virtually inoperative as trucks can not ply the 16 kilometre road from Dharkhar to the check post to carry imports and exports, customs sources said. This is the only road to the check post, which was badly damaged by the recent

flood.

Mentionably, there is a government plan to upgrade the check post to a land port, considering its commercial importance. A high level team from Dhaka visited check post earlier this year and made necessary survey.

Plying of trucks and other vehicles on the road had resumed after the flood though the authorities had prohibited movement of trucks carrying goods over 7 tonnes because of its rugged condition.

The bridge collapsed in the early morning of August 18 as a truck loaded with 300 bags of cement weighing 15 tonnes boarded the bridge on its way to the check post, it was learnt.

Sources at the Roads and Highway Department in Brahmanbaria, when contacted, could not say when the bridge will be repaired.

They have asked for building materials, which are yet to reach, they said.

Despite repeated attempts, RHD Engineer Sirajul Haque could not be contacted for details.

Others at his office said he always remains busy in fieldwork during daytime and does office work mostly after evening.

Brahmanbaria Additional Police Superintendent Md Jahangir Hussein said police are patrolling the road to maintain the law order.

Barisal Jubo Dal men attack houses of 2 BNP leaders

Tussle over buying PDB generator

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Some Jubo Dal activists attacked houses of two BNP leaders in the city on Monday in a tussle over purchase of a PDB (Power Development Board) generator, left virtually abandoned at Amanatganj.

The generator is being sold allegedly because some dishonest employees has shown it not cost-effective. It is alleged that a tussle grew for buying the generator as it is being sold at a throwaway price.

The sources said Jubo Dal activists belonging to the group led by its city unit joint secretary Syed Akbar ransacked the houses of Arifur Rahman Babu and Zahid Hossain, BNP secretaries in Ward No. 4 and Ward No. 6 respectively. The attackers were led allegedly by Maruf.

Police, ordered by District BNP President and mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar, rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, the sources said.

Kotwali thana OC Sharum Khan said some flower vases in the houses were damaged by the attackers. No case was filed.

Syed Akbar however said there was only exchange of hot words between the Jubo Dal activists and the two BNP leaders at their houses.

Couple fall victim to fatwa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A young couple is now leading an isolated life in a village following a 'fatwa' (unofficial religious decree) by some so-called religious leaders.

Taiyab Ali of South Deshi Bai village in Jaldhaka upazila, in a fit of rage following a quarrel, had told his wife Marium that he would divorce her. But he actually did not do that and they were living together.

As the matter became known to some religious leaders in the village, they came to their house and told them that they should not live together because the wife has been divorced as per Islamic Shariah (law).

The religious leaders advised Taiyab Ali to arrange a hilla (marriage with a third person) marriage of his wife and said they could live together as husband and wife after that.

But the couple ignored the advice and continued to live together.

At this, the religious leaders arranged a shalish (arbitration meeting) in the village and told the villagers to isolate the couple. Since then, they are having an isolated life in the village, Taiyab Ali told newsmen here recently.

He said he has brought the matter to human rights activists also.

'Listed criminal' held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Dumki thana police on Monday arrested 'listed criminal' Monir Hossain, 23, from his house at Labukhali village.

He was wanted in connection with the recent attack on some students of Patuakhali Science and Technology University.

Police said Monir is accused in at least 10 criminal cases including some for dacoity, toll collection and snatching.

Police produced him before court, which sent him to jail.

Export-import thru' Bhomra land port declines

Steps by Indian customs to check export in excess of LCs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A virtual stalemate in export-import through Bhomra land port is persisting for the last few days as Indian customs at Ghojadanga land port has tightened clearance so that Bangladesh-bound trucks can not carry goods in excess of LCs.

On Monday, 126 loaded trucks entered Bhomra land port. The number was 58 on September 1, 51 on September 2, 80 on September 4 and 61 on September 5. Earlier, 200 to 250 trucks would enter Bangladesh through the land port, officials and C&F agents said yes-

terday. They said the Indian authorities are checking goods on every truck and taking action against those carrying goods in excess of LCs.

High powered customs officials from Calcutta also visited the Ghojadanga land port to see enforcement of laws. This was part of a plan to strictly enforce laws, ordered by higher authorities.

A team also visited Petrapole land port, opposite to Benapole land port in Jessore on September 1, they said.

The sources said, the high powered team during its visit to

Ghojadanga land port detected massive irregularities in issuing clearance certificate to transports bound for Bangladesh. Following strict inspection by Indian customs, the number of travelers to and from Bangladesh has also decreased sharply, said Bhomra Immigration Sub-inspector Farid.

On contact, Al-Haj Amjad Hossain of Bhomra C&F Agents Association, also expressed the same views.

Added to this is the pitiable condition of roads in Ghojadanga, which discourage truckers to use the route.

JCD activists lock Barisal Polytechnic

Angered by result debacle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Three JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) leaders kept main gates of academic and administrative buildings at Barisal Polytechnic Institute locked for one hour and a half yesterday as they failed in practical examinations.

Their results were published on Monday but they failed in practical examinations. The results are prepared from attendance records, class tests and quiz tests.

The three together with their followers lacked up the main gates at about 11 am.

Being called, police reached the campus at about 12:30 pm. The students later unlocked the gates in presence of police following assurance from Principal Abu Bakr Siddique.

The Principal told students that marks in practical examinations were given by Rezaul Bahar earlier. Bahar is now at Patuakhali Polytechnic Institute on deputa-

tion, it was gathered.

Angered by result debacle

Freedom fighter hacked for protesting crime

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A freedom fighter, hacked by miscreants for protesting crimes, is now fighting for life at hospital.

Police and family sources said some miscreants including Cheton, Rakib, Hafiz, Zaman, Kasem, Hasem forced into the house of Rupchad Mondol, 52, at Chataripara village in Daulatpur upazila and dragged him out. They took him to a nearby field and hacked him indiscriminately.

His family and neighbours took him to the upazila health complex, where he is being treated. Family sources said Mondol had protested toll collection and other crimes in the area by some identified criminals.

A case has been filed with Daulatpur police station but none has been arrested.



PHOTO: STAR

Roads and Highways authorities cannot say when the collapsed bridge at Debogran in Akhaura will be repaired.

'Ensure security of life or step down'

Govt urged at AL, JSD rallies in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Opposition Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) yesterday brought out separate processions and held rallies in Manikganj town as part of their countrywide anti-government agitation.

AL started its procession at 11:30 am from its district office and paraded the streets. It was terminated in front of the Deputy Commissioner's, where a rally was held.

Manikganj Sadar AL President Jalaluddin Ahamed presided over the rally, also addressed by, among others, district AL President Golam Mohiuddin, secretary Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim, Poura unit president Engineer Faruque,

Sadar unit secretary Hasibuddin Ahammed Selim, party leaders Abdul Mojid and Dipak Ghosh, Mohila AL district secretary

Laxmi Chaterji, Jubo League President Kazi Enayet Hossain Tipu, its central leader Sudev Saha and Chhatra League Joint Secretary Dewan Abdul Motin.

They said the government should step down as it failed to ensure security of people's life and property.

They alleged that such incidents are happening because the government is patronising criminals and religious extremists.

JSD's procession from its office terminated in front of Manikganj Press Club with a rally.

Addressing the rally, JSD Organising Secretary Aslam Khan Babu demanded formation of a "national government" to free the people from what he called the alliance government's misrule.

Probe by foreign experts tarnishes country's image: Ershad

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Jatyo Party chairman and former president H M Ershad said bomb attacks which started during Awami League rule is still going on unabated because of deterioration in law and order. This is a failure by both the governments.

There was no such incident when Jatiya Party was in power, he said while addressing a number of rallies arranged to campaign for JP candidate Ahsan Ahamed in Nilphamari municipal election. The polls will be held today.

Ershad said probe into the August 21 grenade attack at Awami League's meeting in Dhaka by foreign experts has tarnished the image of the country. "Our people (investigators) can prove such incidents, if the government is sincere", he said.

He regretted that due to repeated bomb attacks, Bangladesh had been branded as an "ineffective country". This is because of failure of successive governments, not of people.

"A country which earned independence through war and sacrifice of millions of lives can not be an ineffective country.

He called upon the people to rally round Jatiya Party to overcome the situation.

Lax security at Barisal airport

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Security at Barisal airport is yet to be strengthened though 'red alert' has been declared in three other airports in the country.

Only three policemen and fifteen Ansars are deployed in the Airport at Rahamatpur in Babuganj, some 15 kilometers from the city.

This is too inadequate to maintain security, airport authorities said.

They said they sent a letter to Barisal police administration to increase the number of policemen to beef up security at the airport and safety of airport staff and passengers.



PHOTO: STAR

Only three policemen and four Ansars guard Barisal Airport and main-

10x3