

SNAPS

Transport strike in 6 dists threatened

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Transport owners' associations of six districts in Mymensingh region on Monday threatened an indefinite transport strike from October 12 if their demand for withdrawal of BRTC (Bangladesh Road and Transport Corporation) bus services is not met by October 11. The districts are Mymensingh, Netrakona, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Kishoreganj and Tangail. The decision was taken at a meeting at Mymensingh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) office with MCCI president AKM Shamsuddin in the chair.

Arms recovery: 6 sent to Bandarban jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A court here on Tuesday rejected the bail petition of six people arrested on charge of arms trading and sent them to jail after remand. Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) members in a drive arrested one alleged arms trader from Satkania on September 18 and four other tribals from Bandarban with arms. Rab also arrested a tribal woman, Jing Cheo Bom on September 22 for her connection in arms trading.

Bad results from reputed colleges

Pass percentage in HSC lesser in Barisal govt colleges: Board officials say they will probe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Most of the renowned colleges in Barisal except the Barisal Cadet College did frustrating results in the HSC examination this year, which has created resentment among guardians and examinees as well.

Many guardians this correspondent talked to said these institutions had admitted students after merit test but the pass percentage was around half or less than that.

Barisal Board officials said they will probe into it.

According to HSC results published on Monday, 60 students from ten renowned colleges got GPA-5. Twenty-five of those went to Barisal Cadet College and the rest 35 were shared by nine other institutions.

The four other government colleges got 12 and private colleges got 23.

Out of 1212 examinees from Government Syed Hatem Ali College, only 495 passed. Six of them got GPA.

At Barisal Government Women's College, 668 examinees out of 1307 passed. Only four students got GPA-5.

Only 196 out of 440 examinees passed from Shahid Smriti Government College. Three got GPA-5.

A total 231 out of 404 examinees passed from Patuakhali Government Women's College. Two got GPA-5.

Private colleges did better. A total of 1029 examinees appeared from Amrita Lal Dey College in Barisal city. Only 622 passed. Sixteen

students however got GPA-5.

The pass percentage is only 21.90 in Jhalakati Mohila College, 48 per cent in Mahilara College, 41 per cent in Safa College 57 per cent in Patharghata College. Each got one GPA-5.

The results of government colleges were also similar last year.

On the other hand, the pass percentage is higher in colleges in rural areas, Board officials said.

Some guardians said the pass percentage was bad because teachers concentrated on a few good students and did not give any attention to classes.

Barisal Board authorities when contacted also said the noted government colleges belied their expectations.

Join Oct 3 rally: Tofail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Awami League (AL) Presidium member Tofail Ahmed on Tuesday called upon all pro-liberation forces to get united to free the country from the clutches of 'fundamentalists and communal forces.'

Addressing a meeting organised by the district unit of the party, Tofail said the country is not safe in the hands of the present Four-Party Alliance government.

He said the grenade attack on the Awami League rally on August 21 was to eliminate Sheikh Hasina and other party leaders.

Manikganj district unit president Golam Mohiuddin presided over the rally while it was addressed, among others, by the party central committee's Youth and Sports Affairs Secretary Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul, its district unit secretary Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim, senior leaders Abdul Salam, Abdul Mojib Photo and M Meher Uddin.

He also urged the leaders and workers to join the party's grand rally in Dhaka on October 3.

Tk 25 lakh duty deception bid foiled at Benapole port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Benapole Customs on Sunday foiled a duty deception bid amounting to Tk 25 lakh.

Three importers of Dhaka imported Indian goods by 24 trucks, which carried goods in excess.

The trucks were carrying 3,491 bundles of copier paper in excess. Five trucks laden with 3,913 bundles of copier paper in excess bearing manifest numbers 62683-87 imported by Sheba Traders, Dhaka and exported by Krishna Traders, Calcutta.

Seven trucks laden with excess 1,307 bundles of coated paper imported by Sheba Trader, Dhaka and exported by Raj Enterprise, Calcutta. Eight trucks laden with excess 1,556 bundles of coated paper imported by Rahman Brothers, Dhaka and exported by Raj Enterprise, Calcutta.

Shamsur Rahman, a leader of Sarsha unit of BNP was the Clearing and Forwarding Agent of the imported goods.

Resist 'conspiracy', Tariqul tells JCD rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam has said the government is determined to probe all blasts in Sylhet as well as the August 21 grenade blast in Dhaka, but Awami League does not want it.

This is why, they want to topple a democratically elected government as per a "blueprint and conspiracy".

The people would not allow this and if needed, will resist the undemocratic move for the sake of continuation of the development process, democracy and peace.

He was speaking as chief guest at the Sylhet divisional rally of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, BNP's student front, held in the city on Tuesday.

The minister claimed that after the August 21 incident, some Indian newspapers including the Hindu advocated for "military action" against Bangladesh. This is undesirable. People of the country are very conscious and understand everything, Tariqul said.

The opposition party has also launched a campaign at home and abroad to show Bangladesh as a dysfunctional country, sheltering extremists. This spoiling country's image.

They are doing anarchy taking the advantage of democracy. This is hindering economic progress and flow of foreign investment, the minister said.

Tariqul hoped, the conscious students community along with the

peace loving people would resist all such conspiracies.

The minister said the country does not belong to any single

Party. It belongs to the people, who will decide which party will stay in power, he said.

Vice- president of central JCD Emran Ahmed Chowdhury, who is also president of its Sylhet district unit, chaired the rally while Fazlul Haque Milon MP was the special guest.

JCD chief Shahabuddin Laltu was the main speaker at the rally, also addressed by, among others, district BNP Convener M Ilyas Ali MP, Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury MP, Dilder Hossain MP and Azizul Bari Helal.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League central leader Motia Chowdhury addressing a public meeting at Jaldhaka in Nilphamari.

Jamaat men smuggle in arms, says Motia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Awami League Presidium member and former agriculture minister Motia Chowdhury held Jamaat-e-Islami responsible for the 21 August grenade attack on the AL rally in Dhaka.

Now in the ruling alliance, the party, by using its influence, is smuggling arms through Chittagong Port and using those to eliminate pro-liberation forces. "They have clearance from BNP", she alleged while addressing public meeting at Jaldhaka High School ground on Tuesday, arranged by the upazila

AL.

"They know that Bangbandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina is the only source of inspiration for the nation and if she can be killed the pro-liberation forces will be in disarray and liquidated gradually", Motia said. They now want to take revenge for their defeat in 1991, she added.

Presided over by Jaldhaka upazila AL President Abdul Mannan, the meeting was addressed by, among others party central leader Farook Khan MP, advisor Advocate Abdur Rahim, former diplomat Mahmud Ali, district AL joint convenor Jonab Ali, Nilphamari Municipal

Chairman Dewan Kamal Ahamed, Syedpur Municipal Chairman Akhtar Hossain Badal and Domar Municipal Chairman AL-Azahar Hossen.

Motia said the August 21 incident has united pro-liberation forces. The fall of the BNP-Jamaat government is a matter of time only as all the pro-liberation forces have forged unity.

She called upon the people to launch a mass movement to topple the government because it has filed to run the country and ensure security of people's life and property but is trying to cling to power by repression.

Criminals flee hill village in Sherpur

Security tightened after Daily Star report

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Sherpur

Netrakona: Peace has returned to the five villagers in bordering Jinaigathi upazila in Sherpur district following vigilance by BDR and police.

Criminals and arms smugglers had created a reign of terror in the area, inhabited mostly by indigenous people. They realised toll at random and kidnapped those who failed to pay or opposed them.

The local people were helpless as some gangs had established their strongholds. Smuggling in of arms was going on unabated.

This correspondent during a recent visit to the area again saw police, Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) and BDR teams in operation against terrorists.

The security forces launched special joint operations in the area and freed eight villagers kidnapped and confined in their 'camps' in

Bakakura and Namapara, local people said.

The freed persons are Probat Kubi, 45 and Profulla Kubi, 35 of Chutagajni village; Amrul Chambugang, 38 and Misal Dopu, 28, of Namapara; Mojum Ali, 30, of Dudhnai; Dilip Mrong, 34, of Bakakura; and Caption Mankin, 26 and Sudir Sengmli, 24, of Namapara village.

Many indigenous men who had fled away fearing kidnap by armed terrorists have returned home.

But five persons kidnapped by the terrorists are still missing, the local people said. They are Dinal Dalbal, 26, son of Hasan Dalbat of Bakakura village; Rupon Kubi, 23, son of Samuel Mangsaer of Chuta Gajni village; Nipin Dopu, 27, son of Panimal Kubi; Walam Sangma, 32 and Bipul Kubi of Namapara Village.

The villagers said the terrorists have fled to the jungles across the border.

Three grenades hurled at Talu Spinning Mill

Trees damaged but no casualty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three grenades were tossed on the compound of Talu Spinning Mill in Chuadanga, owned by ruling BNP lawmaker Haji Mojammeel Haq at about 11pm Tuesday.

The grenades burnt and destroyed some trees but none was hurt, police and mill authorities said yesterday.

They said the grenades hurled from outside exploded near the gate when security guards were asleep.

Police rushed there immediately after the incident and collected splinters. They said they were examining those.

The mill Manager, Iqbal Hossain, when contacted yesterday, said he was at his house about half a kilometre from the mill. Hearing the explosions he rushed to the mill and informed police.

There was no damage to machinery or other installation, he said. production is going on as usual.

The Chuadanga Police Superintendent also visited the mill.

When contacted over cell phone yesterday, Haji Mojammeel Haq, now in Dhaka, said he could not speculate who did it.

"I have no enemy except political rivals", he said.

The mill's Security Manager Anwar Hossain said he has lodged a general diary with Damurhuda thana without naming any accused.

Police said the grenades could be hurled by outlaws.

Angiogram facility at CMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fifty-five-year old Sayeed Noor from Chandanaish is very lucky. He is the first man to avail angiogram facility introduced at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) on Tuesday.

"It is a historical moment for all of us and we have done it successfully," said Dr AKM Monzur Morshed, Head of Cardiology Department while talking to journalists.

Assistant professor of the department Dr Anisur Rahman and register Dr Sheikh Hasan Mamun, specially trained up from National Institute for Cardio-Vascular Diseases (NICVD), conducted it.

The angiogram machine, procured at a cost Tk 5 crore some nine months ago, was installed here on May 19.

Medical technologists from NICVD Babul Chandra, Liton, Bashar and senior staff nurses Insaifi Khanna and Rita assisted them. Dr Morshed, Dr SC Dhar, Dr Jamal Ahmad, Dr Akhtar Hossain, Dr Mir Jamal, Dr Sumon Nazmul Hossain and Dr Kamrul Islam supervised the angiogram.

CMCH Director Brigadier General Toufiqueul Alam, Principal Dr Chowdhury B Mahmud, former Director General (Health) Professor Dr Noor-un-Nabi, veteran physician professor Dr Aminul Islam, General Secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chittagong chapter Dr Khurshid Jamil Chowdhury were present.

Sangu in CHT dying

Experts suggest immediate dredging

MONIRUL ISLAM MONU, Bandarban

Experts have suggested dredging the hilly Sangu river to keep it navigable and check floods and erosion by it.

The river overflows both its banks during every rainy season, destroying human habitations, market places and town along its about 100 kilometre route. Due to deposit of silt over the years, it turns into a streamlet in the dry season when even small boats can not ply.

Talking to this correspondent, Dr Abdul Gafu, Senior Scientific Officer at Bandarban Soil Preservation and



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League central leader and former home minister Mohammad Nasim addressing a party rally at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park in Satkhira.

Dislodge govt to save country

Nasim tells AL meeting in Satkira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Front ranking Awami League leader and former home minister Mohammad Nasim on Tuesday called upon the people to launch a mass movement against the "failed" BNP-Jamaat government.

"They have turned Bangladesh into a dysfunctional state by their misrule", he told a big public meeting, held at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park in the town.

Condemning the on-going arrests in different areas of the country, Nasim said it is a crack-down on Awami League to foil its October 3 'grand rally' in Dhaka.

"Such undemocratic and fascist move will not keep them in power in the face of a mass movement", he said.

The former home minister also criticised raising of special forces like the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)

and the Chetah. "These have been created to harass people".

Nasim said AL central leader Ivy Rahman along with others laid down their lives to protect the country from "misrule" of the BNP-Jamaat government. "So instead of shedding tears for them, we should resist the perpetrators", he said.

He said the August 21 carnage was part of a blue print by communal forces to eliminate AL chief Sheikh Hasina to turn Bangladesh into a Taliban state.

Killing of political leaders, intellectuals, journalists and pro-liberation forces increased since takeover by the 4-Party Alliance government. He mentioned the murder of Khulna AL leader Monjurul Imam and journalists Humayun Kabir Balu and Manik Shaha.

The government can not ensure

security of people's life and property because ruling party men are sheltering criminals and outlaws, Nasim alleged.

Outlaws contained during Awami League rule have surfaced again under the present government as ruling party men are sheltering them, he alleged.

Addressing the meeting, former state minister for textiles K M Jahangir Hossain MP said the country will be ruined if the "Khaleda-Nizami government" remains in power and called for unseating it through a mass movement.

Satkhira district AL convenor Sheikh Mujibur Rahman presided over the meeting, addressed by, among others, Dr F F M Ruhul Haq, Monsur Ahmed, Nazrul Islam, Abu Ahmed, Shawkat Hossain and Sheikh Nurul Haq.

2 bankers held for Tk 1.8 cr scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two bankers were arrested on Monday on charge of misappropriation of Tk one crore and eight lakh from the corporate branch of Janata Bank (JB) here.

They are Senior Principal Officer Zillur Rahman and Junior Officer Subodh Kumar Mondol of the bank.

They were sent to the district jail on the day, according to Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khulna Thana Mosharef Hossain.

We sought permission from the higher authorities to arrest the Deputy General Manager (DGM) of the bank's branch Monowara Amin who is the principal accused in the misappropriation case. Her involvement in the financial scam was proved after investigation, the OC revealed.

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