

Another accused

FROM PAGE 20
the killing and said the inclusion of his name in the case was for "political harassment".

He went to Saudi Arabia on October 30, two days before the killing, and returned home after his visa expired, police said.

Masked criminals shot dead Lokman, also the general secretary of Narsingdi town Awami League, on the night of November 1 in the district AL office on Sadar Road.

Lokman's brother Kamruzzaman filed a case accusing 14 people. According to the FIR, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju's brother Salauddin Ahmed is the prime accused.

Police have so far arrested 13 people in this connection. Of them, nine gave confessional statements before court.

Minister's brother Salauddin is yet to be arrested. Tareque, the number eight accused, was defeated by Lokman in last year's mayoral race.

Court sub-inspector Anwar Hossain said Tareque was involved in the planning of the murder and left the country just two days before

the killing to mislead the law enforcers.

Meanwhile, protesting his arrest, several hundred BNP men demonstrated on the court premises and demanded his release.

Police baton charged to disperse the agitators.

In another development, Lokman's family members yesterday expressed doubt about the investigation and accused the police of misleading the case.

His brother Shamim Newaz, general secretary of the district Chhatra League, said police arrested many people instead of arresting the main culprit.

Mob beats

FROM PAGE 20
in a canal. The locals caught them and beat them to death.

They also caught Monir and handed him over to the police after beating.

During the primary interrogation, Monir admitted that they gathered there to commit a robbery.

The bodies were sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Police recovered four sharp weapons from the possessions of the victims.

Ebtidayee

FROM PAGE 20

the first time in the country, over 2.22 lakh class-V madrasa students came out successful last year while their pass percentage was 83.93.

Over 32,000 students obtained GPA above 4 while over 40,000 examinees secured GPA between 3.5 and 4. A total of 50,370 students earned GPA between 3 and 3.5 while the remaining candidates obtained GPA between 1 and 3.

This year, the number of unsuccessful students stood at 23,737 compared to last year's number of unsuccessful candidates which was above 42,000.

Over 3,21,000 students from 11,519 madrasas registered to appear in the examinations. Of them over 2,72,000 students participated in the exam. It is apprehended that the students who registered to participate in the examinations but failed to attend the tests might get dropped.

Dhaka Division ranked fifth among the seven divisions with 91.46 percent pass rate. Like last year, students of Barisal Division came up with the best performance with 94.65 percent pass rate while Sylhet division got the lowest 82.14 percent.

Around 6,074 madrasas

witnessed cent percent pass rate while 99 madrasas saw zero percent.

Sylhet road

FROM PAGE 20

Fifteen persons, six of them in critical condition, were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Traffic halted on the highway for an hour as angry locals put barricades following the accident. Vehicular movement resumed after police cleared the blockade.

Six of the deceased are schoolboy Noman Ahmed, Bobita Rani Das, 23, teacher of Birakhai Government Primary School, Tripti Rani Das, 25, teacher of Kuriail Government Primary School, housewife Salma Begum, 30, housewife Khatun Bibi, 60, and bus driver Anwar Hossain, 28.

Identities of two women in their sixties and a man aged around 40 could not be known.

Education shines

FROM PAGE 1

Students. Free distribution of books resulted in an increase in the number of students by 50 lakh and the demand for books as well. This year, the ministry distributed over 23 crore copies of textbooks.

The education policy framed by the government seeks to establish a unified education system in the country. The policy however drew flak from religion-based political parties and organisations due to its progressive features.

A specific budgetary allocation for implementation of the policy is yet to be made.

A major step taken by the education ministry in line with the new policy is updating the curricula for primary and secondary levels incorporating the latest concepts, methods and practices.

Besides, the government introduced two public examinations at the end of class V and class VIII. This created competitiveness among the students, and also teachers.

Students as well as their guardians are now serious about these examinations as certificates and stipends are being given on the basis of results.

The rate of dropouts both at SSC and HSC levels declined in the last three years greatly due to the free distribution of textbooks, increase of stipend coverage for students and training of teachers.

According to official estimates, the dropout rate at SSC level has come down to 29 percent this year from 36 percent last year and 42 percent in 2009. And this rate at HSC level has declined to 18.19 percent this year from 18.24 percent last year and 19.92 percent in 2009.

However, the dropout situation is not yet satisfactory as several lakh students drop out every year.

The government claims to have enrolled around 99 percent children for primary education. But reducing the huge dropout rate further and imparting quality education will be two major tasks.

Passage of the Private University Act 2010 is another major initiative in the education sector. The act seeks to ensure discipline and standard of education at the private universities.

After a six-year suspension, the education ministry resumed the monthly pay order (MPO) facility for teachers. It listed 1,612 private educational institutions in 2010 for this facility on the basis of a policy.

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However, criticism from ruling Awami League ministers and lawmakers over the MPO list that left out many institutions of their choice led to its revision twice.

Lack of coordination with the finance ministry has stalled the education ministry's initiatives, such as giving time scale incentives to teachers and MPO to deserving ones, and forming a separate pay commission for teachers, sources in the ministries said.

Although the government has been providing training facilities for teachers, there is a need for focusing on the high standard and quality of training for further improving the quality of education.

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