



PHOTO: STAR

The ruling Awami League has taken over a large number of billboards in Bogra town ahead of its party convention scheduled for tomorrow. The photo was taken from Bir Shrestha Square at Satmatha intersection on Thursday.

Billboards 'captured' ahead of Bogra AL convention

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

The ruling Awami League (AL) men have 'captured' at least 50 billboards of different organisations in the town for publicity ahead of the convention of the party's district unit tomorrow.

The occupied billboards display portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her son Sajib Wazed Joy, a few ministers and several central and district leaders of the party.

The triennial convention of the district AL is going to be held on the premises of Bogra Zila School after 10 years to elect its new committee, party sources said.

On the occasion, the leaders and activists of the party and its associate organisations have set a large number of billboards, banners, festoons, gates, and arches at their own cost, said Tabibur Rahman, district unit law affairs secretary of the party.

Visiting different locations of the

town, this correspondent saw publicity of the convention on commercial billboards beside the northern wall of Bogra Zila School, the eastern and southern sides of Shaptopody market, Muktiyoddha Sangsad building, Nadi Bangla market, JSD office, SR Paribahan, post office, Cooperative Bank, LG building, Temple Road market and several other places in Bogra town.

Even Birshrestha Square, built in honour of the seven highest gallantry award winner martyred freedom fighters, at Satmatha in the town, is being used for the publicity ahead of the party convention.

The AL men gradually started 'capturing' the locations for the publicity in the middle of last month, reminding people of similar practices by BNP men during the visit of the then opposition leader Khaleda Zia in September last year, locals said.

The occupied advertising hoardings had been rented to Brac Bank, Parachute Oil, Grameenphone, BCL Supermarket, Otobi Furniture, BSRM

and KSRRM cement companies, Akbaria Hotel and Restaurant, BBS Cables, Singer company, IDLC, Pran Group, Bkash, Zanzebd Ice-cream and several other organisations.

"We have advised the party leaders and activists to receive verbal permission from the companies concerned to take temporary possession of the billboards," AL leader Tabibur Rahman said.

Seeking anonymity, representatives of several advertising companies said that none of the ruling party leaders contacted them for using the billboards.

Besides, the billboard users should have taken permission from the municipality mayor, they said.

Contacted, Bogra municipality Mayor AKM Mahbubur Rahman said, "Advertising companies erect the billboards for renting those to different organisations through payment to the municipality. The responsibility regarding their use rests on the advertising companies."

Abducted Bagerhat kid rescued in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday rescued a minor girl from Jokarchar village in Kalihati upazila, after 11 days of her abduction from Bagerhat.

The law enforcers also arrested two abductors, Jakir Hossain and Sheikh Ali Azam of Rampal upazila, from the spot.

Rab sources said, the arrestees abducted the six-year-old daughter of a man of Chakshri village in Rampal upazila on November 27 and demanded Tk 5 lakh from the parents for her release.

Following a case filed by the victim's father, a team of Rab-12, led by Commanding Officer Mohiuddin Faruque, raided the village and rescued the girl from captivity.



PHOTO: STAR

A narrow, lonely path across the 'lifeless' Singra forest in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur.

Criminal held after 'gunfight' in Laxmipur

UNB, Laxmipur

A member of a notorious criminal gang was arrested after he was injured in a gunfight between police and his group at Latifpur village in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The injured was identified as Rassel, a member of 'Jisan Bahini' of the area.

Four police constables - Abdul Kader, Mainul Islam, Abul Kashem and Masum Uddin-were also injured during the gunfight.

The district's superintendent of police Shah Mijan Safiur Rahman said a team of police raided the area to arrest Solaiman Uddin Jisan, leader of the terror group in the dead of night.

Sensing the presence of the police team, Jisan and his accomplices opened fire at them, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate with gunfire, leaving Jisan's aide Rassel bullet-hit and four policemen injured.

Later, the police team arrested injured Rassel but other members of the terror group managed to flee the scene.

Rassel was admitted to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital under police custody.

Police also recovered a light gun from the spot.

Jisan is wanted in several cases, including for murder, extortion, robbery and kidnapping, the SP added.

Emptied, silence grips the sal forest

ANDREW EAGLE, from Birganj upazila in Dinajpur.

Nature has taken 'a vow of silence' in Singra Forest. The trees are beautiful, no doubt. The shade's cool is noticeable. The sunlight filtered by sal leaves makes its expected display of light and shadow and soothes the soul. It's a place for the laughter of winter picnics.

From the forest beat office there's a stream to wade through to get into the heart of Singra. But it's a forest that's lost its heart. Like a theatre stage arranged with sets, microphones and lights, but where actors will never come, in Singra there's barely the sound of a bird. Nature is keeping mum.

Those termites that live, unseen, in their earthen mounds must be the most telling: forest decay.

It wasn't always this way. Large tracts of Dinajpur district were once covered in sal forest, an extension of the Duars forests of the Himalayan foothills in Paschimbanga where you can still find the rhinoceros.

Until the end of the nineteenth century,

Dinajpur was animal rich. Tigers and leopards were widely distributed; otters, jungle, fishing and leopard cats common.

Birganj was "so notorious for tigers," reads the District Gazetteer, "that no traveller would pass through it at night, or even in the daytime if alone."

But by 1911 tiger, buffalo and swamp deer were "only a memory." Smaller cats remained some decades more, with leopards making their last stand in any numbers in ruined temples and mosques, in old graveyards and abandoned homes.

Felling of forest trees peaked in anticipation of the enactment of the Bengal Private Forest Act of 1945, with landlords seeking quick profit. Partition encouraged more tree felling before people left for the other side.

And since? According to the beat officer, Singra barely has a tree predating 1971. People are busy: Bangalee and Santal, guiding their cattle through the undergrowth to grazing spots. It's noisy. Can you hear their voices?

Villagers are collecting sticks for firewood moving about like wild fowl once did. There's a large square clearing of unclear origin and bicycles and Hondas (motorbikes) coming through. There's the sound of an axe and lorry tracks.

Snakes still occasionally visit the beat office. The bushes rustle as a monitor lizard passes - and that means there must be rats and probably those shrews that are common in Dinajpur town.

But the monkey, porcupine, wild boar, wild cock, fishing cat, deer, *bongaru* and *nilgai* have their memorial made in the list of lost species on the Singra National Park signboard. The small 305.69 hectare park was established in 2010 - better late than never?

The signboard says the rabbit, fox, snake and mongoose remain. That's the wildlife of many a village too. A forest should do better.

There's talk of building a bridge over the stream to let the tourists in. But while ever the busy forest is so empty, why not let us wade?

AL LEADER MURDER

36-hr hartal called in Abhaynagar

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

An 'action committee' formed by local people has called a 36-hour hartal in Abhaynagar upazila in the district from tomorrow, demanding punishment of the killers of Noapara municipality councillor Oliar Rahman.

Abdul Malek Mollah, convenor of the committee announced the shutdown programme at a meeting in Noapara Nurbagh intersection on Sunday night.

The shutdown will begin at 6:00 am on Wednesday.

Oliar Rahman, also the joint secretary of Abhaynagar upazila unit of Awami League, came under attack by a group of miscreants on November 23.

He died on the way to Khulna Medical College Hospital the same day.

The attackers fired two shots at him near his residence in the area, leaving him critically injured.

Woman killed as gangs lock in gunfight

UNB, Rangamati

A woman was killed and a man was injured during a gunfight between two rival groups at Ghagra Noadam village in Kauhali upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Kalabi Chakma, 30, a resident of the area while the injured was identified as Haridhar Chakma, 45.

Nilu Kanti Barua, officer-in-charge of Kauhali Police Station, said a gunfight took place between the two rival groups of the area over establishing supremacy around 10:15 am.

Kalabi and Haridhar received bullet wound as they were caught in the line of fire during the gunfight.

Kalabi died on the spot while Haridhar was rushed to Chandraghona Mission Hospital.



The plaque on the memorial built in 2005 in Bhola district town for the martyrs of 1971 still remains unfinished allegedly as the list of the other martyrs were yet to be sent to the district by the authorities

PHOTO: STAR

2 Jubo League men killed in factional clashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A local Jubo League leader, who was seriously injured in an attack by criminals in Nabharan Bazar area in Sharsa upazila of the district on Sunday night, succumbed to his injuries at a clinic in Dhaka yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Tajumuddin, 35, organising secretary of Nabharan ward level Jubo League committee.

As the death news spread in the area, supporters of Tajumuddin vandalised the house of Sharsa upazila unit Chhatra League president Abdur Rahim Sardar and set it on fire.

Police said, a gang attacked Tajumuddin with sharp weapons and beat him up indiscriminately while he was going to Nabharan Bazar around 7:30pm on Sunday.

Seriously injured, he was admitted to Renaissance Clinic in Dhanmondi area of Dhaka, where he succumbed to his injuries around 6:00am yesterday.

Sahidar Rahman, officer in-charge of Sharsa Police Station, said angry supporters of Tajumuddin attacked four houses of Abdur Rahim Sardar blaming him for the killing.

The supporters also blocked the Benapole-Jessore Highway for two hours.

Meanwhile, Sirajul Islam, father of slain Tujamuddin, filed a murder case with Sharsa police station, accusing Rahim Sardar and eleven other leaders and activists yesterday evening.

Away in Feni, a Jubo League activist was killed allegedly by his party rivals at Sahdevpur of the town yesterday over establishing supremacy in the area, reports a correspondent.

The deceased is Abul Kashem Dalim, 27, son of Abul Bashar of Farhadnagar village of the upazila.

A supporter of Kohinur Alam, general secretary of Ward No 3 unit of Awami League, Kashem was shot allegedly by the supporters of Jubo League leader Swapan, when a clash ensued between the two groups over establishing supremacy in the area.

Critically injured Kashem was rushed to Feni Sadar Hospital from where he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

He died while undergoing treatment at the hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

PICTURE TELLS THE TALE: Traffic jam has become a regular feature in Chandpur town. The photo was taken from Chandpur Government College area around 11:00 am yesterday.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)
Operations & Maintenance Department

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Work: Design, Documentation, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Access Control System & CCTV for IUB Campus

- Sealed Bids are hereby invited from the bonafide Company / Firms for **Design, Documentation, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Access Control System & CCTV for Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) Campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka.** The bidders shall be required to submit a complete offer in two separate envelopes, one for the Technical Offer while the second envelope shall contain the Financial Offer.
- The interested bidders must have minimum 3 (three) years of experience in similar type of works.
- The bidders shall apply in their Official Letterheads to Director, O&M, IUB, along with the following documents:
 - List of the Clients for whom they have Designed, Supplied & Installed the Access Control System & CCTV,
 - Copies of the Work Orders & Completion Certificates from the renowned Clients for similar type of works,
 - Copies of the updated Trade License, Bank Solvency Certificate / Statement, Income Tax & VAT Registration Certificates of the Company / Firm.
- The bidders shall furnish an earnest money, equivalent to 2.5% of the bid amount, in favour of Independent University, Bangladesh, in the form of Bank Draft / Pay Order from a scheduled Bank of Bangladesh, as part of the Bid Documents.
- Interested bidders are requested to collect the Tender Schedule from the Office of the Director, O&M, IUB, between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm from 15th December to 21st December 2014 (working days only), on payment of a non-refundable amount of Tk 1,000/- (Taka one thousand) only in cash.
- A Pre-bid Meeting with the intended bidders will be held on December 22, 2014 at the Office of the Director, O&M. The time of the Pre-bid Meeting will be notified to the bidders in time.
- The Tenders will be received at the Office of the Director, O&M, IUB up to 2:00 pm of 6th January 2015 and the Technical Offers shall be opened at 2:30 pm on the same day & at the same place, in presence of the bidders who may wish to attend the Tender Opening.
- The Financial Offers of the technically responsive bidders will be opened on a later date with due notification to the respective bidders.
- IUB Authority reserves the right to accept only the technically responsive tenders without any consideration of the lowest bid and shall have the right to reject any or all tender without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Engr. A.S.M. Shah Alam
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