

Natore AL leader shot dead 'by ex-BCL leader'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

An Awami League leader was chopped and shot to death at Baramhati of Lalpur upazila in Natore last night.

The deceased was as Abbas Ali, 60, former member of Arjunpur-Baramhati Union Parishad and also vice president of the union's AL.

Abu Obayed, officer-in-charge of Lalpur Police Station, said there was a longstanding feud Abbas and Mizan Uddin, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra League of the union, over establishing supremacy in the area, and both of them often locked into altercations.

Yesterday around 8:00pm, when Abbas and his cohort Jamir were taking tea in a tea stall, Mizan accompanied by his cohorts suddenly swooped on the duo and started chopping them with sharp weapons, according to police.

At one stage, Mizan shot Abbas.

Injured Abbas later died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, and Jamir is undergoing treatment at a local hospital.



This is the kind of picturesque riverscape one expects of the Buriganga to always have: clean water as far as the eye can see. Unfortunately, it is all fleeting. The beauty lasts only the monsoon when fresh water is added to the river. Within a few days, as soon as it stops raining, the water would take on its earlier hue, inset, and strong malodour would rise off it, as was the case three months ago. Environmentalists are in constant campaign to save the river from irresponsible factory owners and encroachers, but their call has always fallen on deaf ears. The photos were taken on July 29 and April 23 respectively. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Fake engine oil factories fined Tk 8 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court led by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday fined an owner of two factories Tk 8 lakh for producing and marketing fake and adulterated lubricants in the capital's Demra.

Sarwoer Alam, executive magistrate, said they found adulterated lubricants being prepared by heating plastic polymer, burnt oil and kerosene at the factories, said a press release.

The lubricants were being packaged in different-sized containers similar to those of the renowned foreign brands and sold at cheaper rates to different traders, it added.

The court also seized fake oil worth Tk 35 lakh and ordered shutdown of the two factories and a storehouse.

MPs' control over local govt bodies breeds all problems

Upazila representatives, experts tell Brac seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Making MPs advisers of upazila parishads is the "mother of all problems" in local government because lawmakers give advices in pursuit of their petty personal and political interests, public representatives and experts said at a seminar yesterday.

They said MPs usually interfered in the activities of upazila administration, taking advantage of law, which made their advices mandatory to follow.

Speaking as chief guest, former caretaker government adviser Sultana Kamal said corruption and lack of accountability were some of the key reasons behind the present sorry state of local government institutions.

She said the influence of political leaders including MPs turned into interference in local government.

Brac Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) at Brac University organised the seminar on revenue mobilisation and women's representation in the union parishads and state of accountability at upazila parishads.

Mirza M Hassan, adjunct fellow, BIGD, said everyone felt helpless due to interference by MPs.

"It seems everyone including elected upazila chairman and upazila nirbahi officer is loyal to MP," he added. "Overall we can say MP's interference is the mother of all problems in the upazila parishad."

Hasan, also a local government expert, said MPs were usually interested to advise on money related projects and activities like healthcare, agriculture, and public health engineering.

Taking part in the discussion, several upazila chairmen supported Hasan's remarks.

Nilima Chakraborty, a member of Koira Union under Koira Upazila, Khulna, alleged that earlier tube wells were distributed among villagers through UP members but the MP did it now. "In most cases, MPs prefer their own people to distribute tube wells," she alleged.

Christian Fotsch, Swiss ambassador in Dhaka; Maheem Sultan, visiting fellow, BIGD; Simeen Mahmud, lead researcher, Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BIGD; Maleka Banu, general secretary, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; and Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary, Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (SHUJAN), also spoke at the seminar, while Sultan Hafeez Rahman of BIGD moderated it.



Prof Azad, Saima win Ibrahim memorial award

BSS, Dhaka

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh President Prof Dr AK Azad Khan and mental health expert Saima Wazed Hossain have been awarded the Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Memorial Gold Medal 2016.

The winners received the medal at Birdem Hospital yesterday, where Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith was present.

Dr Azad won for his role in prevention of diabetes and Saima for earning fame at home and abroad for her works on autism and neurodevelopment disorders.

2 killed in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A woman was killed in her house in Rajshahi yesterday. Angura Begum, 58, was found dead at the veranda of her house in Sorail village under Godagari upazila.

Miscrants might have killed her slitting her throat at night, said SM Forhad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Godagari Police Station. The woman used to live alone at her house. Her daughter filed a murder case, said the OC.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Shakkhor, who was beaten up by some youths at Auctroy intersection of the city two days ago, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Shakkhor, of the city's Binodpur was a student of Agrani Bank School and College, said police.

OBITUARY

Begum Fakhru Nessa, wife of Late Khan Bahadur Bazlur Rahman; mother of Late Mostafizur Rahman, Former Foreign Minister; died peacefully on 27-07-2016 (Inna lilla-hey wa inna ilaihi raziun). She left behind her son, daughters, grand children, great grand children and host of well-wishers, relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Please pray for the salvation of the departed soul. Her namaz-e-zanaza will be held today (Sunday) after zohr prayer at Azad Mosque, Gulshan.

Farzana Chaudhry, Faruk Rahman, Erika Rahman Rizwana Nazrul, Syed Nazrul Islam & Mehzabeen Begum



Bangladesh Garo Chhatra Sangathan brings out a procession in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting a government gazette declaring over 9,000 acres of land at Arankhola Mauja in Madhupur of Tangail as a reserve forest. The demonstrators say the decision would result in the eviction of people of ethnic minority communities. PHOTO: STAR

Govt to popularise potential tourism spots across country

UNB, Dhaka

The government wants to bring unexplored tourism spots and installations in the limelight through effective steps to give a boost to the tourism industry so that it can contribute to the national economy in a bigger way.

There are some 728 establishments of heritage that include old Zamindar (landlord) establishments, religious establishments and historical places, and most of which have unique features to gain popularity. The government will put in its

serious efforts to shed light on those eye-catching but untapped tourism spots, a senior official at the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry told the news agency.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon, during just concluded conference of the Deputy Commissioners (DCs), brought the issue and asked the DCs to take proper steps.

The ministry is now working to brand each district highlighting its respective uniqueness to give further boost to the tourism industry by attract-

ing more tourists, both from home and abroad, said another official.

In line with Tourism Year-2016, the ministry also sought slogans and logos from each district as part of "branding district" initiative. So far 40 districts provided slogans while 24 are yet to come up.

Meanwhile, 37 districts provided logos, but the remaining 27 are yet to do so.

The minister at the DC conference asked the DCs to send their slogans and logos shortly.

Quoting findings of the World Travel

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