

College girl takes her life to escape teasing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A college student Friday took her life to escape continued teasing at Roshangiri in Fatikchhari.

Umme Habiba Rumi, 18, a second year student of Nazirhat College and daughter of Abul Kashem, committed suicide at her residence to avoid teasing by Mohammad Azam and his brother Mohammad Nazim.

Azam and Nazim, both sons of Kabir Ahmad, used to hurl abuses at Rumi on her way to college for a long time, locals said.

Rumi's mother Monwara Begum asked Abdus Salam Talukdar, the union parishad chairman, to look into the matter and bring the brothers to task, relatives said.

Summoning a salish (arbitration) Thursday noon, Talukdar gave 'token' punishment to them who took oath never to repeat their acts, police said.

However, the next noon while she was going to a neighbouring relative's house, Azam pulled and tore her cloth few yards away from their house, witnesses said.

She did manage an escape, but half an hour later relatives found her body hanging from the ceiling of a room.

Rumi's mother Monwara Begum filed a case accusing Azam and Nazim.

The culprits were absconding since the incident, police said.

Extortionists shoot building worker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot a construction worker at Senpara Parbata in Mirpur yesterday as the owner of the building refused to oblige them.

Four armed youths went to the site at 10:00am and looked for the owner of the under-construction building for money. They shot Belal Mia, 45, a construction worker, in the hand as he declined to stop work on their orders, witnesses said.

The owner, who kept on refusing the gang for a long time, was absent at that moment.

"You cannot work here without paying us 'our deserved money'," Belal quoted one of the extortionists as saying.

The labourers declined to stop work without orders from the employer and at one point an extortionist shot Belal.

While leaving they asked the workers to tell the owner to contact them.

Belal was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

However, when contacted, Mirpur police said no extortionist went to the spot.

"Belal was injured in a fight among the construction workers," duty officer at the Mirpur Police Station said at 5:30pm yesterday.

2 SIs shifted, 6 cops closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two sub-inspectors (SI) were transferred, six police constables closed and five more alleged dacoits arrested yesterday in connection with the Bhandaria Bandar Bazar robbery.

SI Rezaul and SI Surendra of the Bhandaria Police Station were transferred due to failure in curbing crime in their specific area, police sources said.

Constables Abdul Halim, Abdus Salam, Humayun Kabir, Afzal Hossain, Ahmed Ali and Abul Bashar

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JCD attacks BCL men again at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday swooped on the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men again on the Dhaka University (DU) campus, injuring at least five.

The JCD workers manning the Shahbagh area pounced on a group of BCL members as soon as they tried to enter the campus at around 9:30am to enforce an indefinite strike at the DU from yesterday.

The BCL had called an indefinite strike to protest attack on its leaders and activists at a procession on the campus on Thursday that injured nearly 50 students including its president Liakot Shikder. The BCL brought out the procession in support of general students' strike for the government declaration on the four-year honours as professional qualification.

Dinesh and Shohag of the JCD allegedly led the attack that left BCL leaders Abu Sayeed, Aziz, Bazlu, Shaikat and Shishir injured.

Police, deployed in increased numbers following the JCD attacks on the BCL members on Thursday, were mere spectators when the activists of the ruling BNP's student front launched themselves at the BCL workers, campus sources said.

Equipped with firearms and lethal weapons, the JCD workers were guarding all entry points to the varsity at Shahbagh, Nilkhet, Palashi, Bakshi Bazar and Chankharpool since early morning. Some of them were also seen patrolling by motorbikes.

The Alia Madrassah unit of the JCD also ransacked a restaurant at the Bakshi Bazar crossing having found some BCL leaders and work

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Iraqi men visit the graves of Qusay (L), Uday (C) and Qusay's son Mustafa (R) yesterday in the graveyard of Awja, the home village of Saddam Hussein in Tikrit.

Saddam's sons buried amid tight security

REUTERS, Tikrit

Saddam Hussein's sons Uday and Qusay, killed last month by US troops, were buried in the deposed ruler's home town of Tikrit yesterday in a swift and heavily guarded ceremony, locals said.

They said the bodies were wrapped in Iraqi flags and buried in a local cemetery after arriving from Baghdad in an ambulance. There was a heavy US army presence and journalists were prevented from photographing or filming the burial.

Uday and Qusay were killed on July 22 when US troops attacked their hideout in the northern city of Mosul with grenades, heavy machineguns, rockets and anti-tank missiles.

US officers said they hoped the killing of the brothers would demoralise guerrillas mounting daily ambushes on US troops. But there has been no let-up in attacks.

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BOGRA HAUL HC asks govt to initiate probe, make finds public

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to show cause why it should not be directed to conduct an inquiry into the ammunition haul in Bogra last month.

The government was asked in an order by the HC to make the report public, because it involves national security.

Barrister Mohammad Hamidur Rahman filed the writ.

About one lakh rifle bullets and 200kg explosives were recovered from an abandoned truck covered with pineapples at Jogarpara and also from different places in Kahalu and Dhupchachia in June and July.

The petitioner submitted that the matter was not only a cognizable offence, but it also involved the question of security of the country as well as the accountability and transparency of the government agencies.

He further submitted that the whole nation was waiting for appropriate actions and clarification from the government on this matter. The government has kept the people in the dark about such a vital matter of national interest, he added.

The petitioner argued, as a citizen of Bangladesh he has every right to know what action the government has taken about the huge ammunition and explosives haul in Kahalu and Dhupchachia upazila of Bogra district.

Advocate Ashik Al Jalil appeared for the petitioner.

Plan for bus service to Agartala sent to cabinet

UNB, Dhaka

A proposal to commission the Dhaka-Agartala bus service is likely to be placed before the next cabinet meeting for approval.

The foreign ministry sent the summary of the proposal to the Cabinet Division on Thursday for consideration by the cabinet in its regular weekly meeting on Monday.

The proposed bus service was scheduled to begin in the first week of this month as per an agreement reached at the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting held here on July 14-16, but might be delayed due to procedural as well as infrastructure constraints, officials said.

Earlier, the communications ministry submitted the proposal for cabinet's approval last month, but the cabinet observed that the proposal should come from the foreign ministry.

On condition of anonymity, a senior minister told UNB that the proposal required cabinet's approval since it is an affair between the two countries.

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Govt showcased for ordering withdrawal of case against BNP MP's brother

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued rule asking the government to explain why its directive to withdraw double murder charges against the brother of Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu MP of BNP and nine others undergoing trial should not be declared illegal and malafide.

The rule, returnable in seven days, came upon a writ filed by Mohammad Amir Hamza, brother of victim Amir Abdullah Shakil who along with his friend Mohammad Sentu was gunned down at Keraniganj in February last year.

The petitioner challenged the July 14 directive of the home ministry informing the district magistrate of Dhaka about the government decision to withdraw the case against the MP's brother and his associates.

Considering the significance of the petitioner's grievance, the bench comprising Justice Syed Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Abdul Awal asked court officials to immediately communicate the order to the government by a special messenger.

The government attorney was not present in the court to oppose admissibility of the writ.

ABM Nurul Islam appeared for the petitioner.



Bank men slip fake notes into bundles?

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has recently asked all banks to take necessary measures to combat threats from circulation of forged bank notes following growing allegations that bundles released even by commercial banks contain counterfeit money.

A recent letter from the central bank said organised groups of forgers in collusion with some bank officials have slipped counterfeits into bundles before handing them out to bank clients, adding that such incidents of forgery reported to the Bangladesh Bank are on the rise.

Earlier, the central bank had dismissed allegations by two private commercial banks (PCBs) that the supplies of money bundles they received from the BB contained fake notes.

But the BB later retracted from its position and asked all banks in a letter to check for counterfeits when receiving bundles from the central bank.

Cash transactions involving 500 and 100 taka notes have become extremely risky as hundreds of fake notes have been injected into the market. To the naked eye, counterfeit notes are virtually indistinguishable from the real ones due to high quality printing and paper.

Sources having links with the underworld of forgery say some organised groups are selling each bundle of one lakh fake notes for Tk 40,000.

BB officials earlier admitted

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Tea garden worker shot dead in clash with ansars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A tea garden labourer died of bullet wounds and nine others were injured in clashes between the labourers and ansars at Hobinagar Tea Estate in Jaintapur upazila Friday evening.

The injured include five members of ansars and four labourers, all admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

According to the garden and police sources, two labourers were returning home after collecting firewood from the garden areas at about 6:00pm. The ansars caught the labourers, took away a dao from them and tried to take them to the garden manager.

The labourers, however, managed to get free, but the news reached the labour panchayet (leader). He along with about 40 others came to the ansars to know what had taken place.

Seeing the labourers, the ansars apprehended that something dangerous was brewing up and fired two blank shots. It angered the labourers and soon they swooped on the ansars with sticks, sharp weapons and bricks. The ansars then fired gunshots, injuring five labourers.

Of them, Minto, 40, succumbed to his injuries at MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital at about 10:00pm. Those admitted to the hospital are labourers Mona, 26,

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BDR joins cops in search of abducted magnate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three platoons of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday joined police in raiding remote places of Fatikchhari and adjoining areas to rescue businessman Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury.

The decision to engage paramilitary BDR in the rescue operation was taken at a meeting at the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarters on Friday.

The BDR force reached Fatikchhari headquarters yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, failure to rescue Chowdhury nine days after the abduction on July 24 became a source of serious concern.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, advisor to the prime minister for the parliamentary affairs, and Sarwar Jamal Nizam directed police for immediate rescue.

So far police could not trace the whereabouts of any of the suspected criminals Gittu Nasir, BDR Salim, Habib Khan, Kanchoon Nagar UP Chairman Abul Kashem of Fatikchhari and Aeoohia UP Chairman Ahmedul Haq of Satkania.

According to locals, information leakage in advance about the raids is the prime cause behind the failure to rescue the victim and nab the criminals.

Jamal Uddin Chowdhury was abducted at around 11:30pm on July 24 as he was returning home from his business firm at Chawk Bazar.

The kidnapers had demanded a ransom of Tk 50 lakh over phone the next day, but since made no further contact.

Pro-govt lawyers to resist court boycott on August 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ainjibi Oikya Parishad, a platform of pro-government lawyers, will resist the court boycott on August 6 called by the Bangladesh Bar Council.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed accused the Bar Council leaders of transforming the council into a politically biased organisation. He was addressing a meeting organised by the Parishad yesterday.

He interpreted the boycott call as a contempt of court and disregard for the judges and litigants.

He called the Bangladesh Bar Council leaders pro-Awami League

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The Gabtali-Kamrangir Char Road, serving as a vital north-south alternative link for the city, is in a rundown condition due to neglect and low quality construction. This picture taken near the Gabtali market yesterday shows the commuters' plight.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 03		6-41 pm
Aug 04	5-28 am	

Prayer Timings		
August 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-48	6-53
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation