

Chittagong, the killing field

MOHIT UL ALAM
 One abduction and one killing have rattled the Chittagong business community. Jamaluddin, a rich businessman of rod and cement, and of some industries, was abducted from his office at Chawk Bazar about three weeks ago.

As of today (August 14), police could not trace him out, though they told newsmen that he would be rescued by today or tomorrow. Family members of Jamaluddin have already paid Tk 50 lakh to the abductors as ransom for his release, a source said.

As Jamaluddin is not yet freed, Chittagonians are skeptic about his fate, particularly, after the murder of another businessman, Rezaur Rahman Zakir. Zakir was just finished by the terrorist killers in less than 20 hours after he was picked up from Chittagong Railway Station in the morning of August 11.

In the recent time, despite a complacent view of some cabinet ministers, crimes have not

only trebled but have also taken on newer forms of execution, the most dangerous one of which is engaging professional killers to get the job done. Big money flows in to conspire about plan and organise the crime. So

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when killing becomes a high-paid job and the noose of law is relatively loose, then more astray young people will be lured by this profession. And as their numbers will increase and become available, more rival businessmen will plot to kill one another, more friends will try to kill more friends.

Crime has a dangerously fascinating side to it. It takes on

an epidemic form when it becomes easily doable. Every dispute big or small then seems to be easily solvable by an act of killing the rivals pumping bullets into each other's head. This is the most worrying

thing for the citizens that murder looks to be an easier proposition. The terrifying realisation is that Jamaluddin's abduction or Zakir's killing is not a crime in isolation but a projection of the vicious network. It is regularly being funnelled with illegal money and weapons from people of influence, and against which law, education, good sense, morality, and finally con-

science, fail to assert themselves, is what tormenting our souls.

Crime, however, is never a cause, but a result. Every crime is both consequent upon a previous crime and consequential. Both Jamaluddin and Zakir are victims of a badly run economic culture in which trading consisting of shady dealings, transaction of contraband items, aggrandizement of land and property illegally, and bribing, and evading taxes, and under-voicing and over-voicing, and twisting law have become order of the day.

A decadent culture is identifiable when things immoral are justified, black money is recognised as symbol of social prestige, and failure of police is acknowledged to be an inevitability. And, good souls also begin to suffer from the delusion that everything that this society presently is cannot but what it is.

Law enforcing agencies in Chittagong are also receiving much flak about their role in Jamaluddin's case. We only wish that all of it were not true.



Rest House popularly known as Hatir Banglo, on railway hill near Lalkhan Bazar crossing is now being used as an officer quarters. Bangladesh Railway constructed the rest house in the shape of an elephant.



Internationally reputed dance artiste TanuShree Shanker and her group enthralled the audiences at a function at the Muslim Institute auditorium on Tuesday. Indian High Commission organised the event titled, "Natun Juger Nach" (Dance of modern age).

CMCH restricts entry of visitors

NURUL ALAM
 Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) authorities launched a fresh drive to restrict the entry of visitors and ensure cleanliness on the premises.

Free-style entry of visitors and medical representatives into the hospital during office hours caused various problems that forced the authorities to continue the drive for the past one month, sources said.

A contingent of about 60 private security men have been engaged on the premises to check the entry of visitors in large scale and introduced 'pass system'. Over Tk one lakh is being spent against the private security arrangements.

The hospital authorities hired the private security men to cope with the situation as it has only 20 security guards, sources said. Some of them had already retired, but were not replaced, sources added. The CMCH needs over 100 security guards to manage it.

On an average, about 20,000 attendants visit the hospital daily to see the patients. As a result, the six-storied hospital always remained crowded with the visitors, witnesses said.

Now the visitors are hardly allowed to enter the CMCH premises without pass. People are scheduled to visit the patients

between 4 pm and 6 pm.

Director of the CMCH, Brigadier General Tawfiq Alam said "With the launching of drive and imposition of restriction unwanted crowd inside the hospital premises almost thinned and the hospital also was giving a better look following efforts for cleanliness".

"All posters and banners of different pharmaceutical companies and political parties pasted on the walls, gates and other places of the hospital were removed and the security guards keeping watch on," he said.

"Nobody is allowed now to

leave any waste or create nuisance on the hospital premises. I myself pay surprise visit to the hospital premises any time during day time and at night to supervise cleanliness drive," Tawfiq Alam said.

"Moreover, we have imposed a restriction on the visit of medical representatives who had frequently called on the doctors during office hours. Now none of them is allowed to meet any doctor inside the hospital before 12 noon," he added.

"If any of them found meeting with the doctors before 12 noon, would face consequence," he said.

Sources said that a section of doctors earlier used to allow

the medical representatives to meet them during office hours for receiving sample medicines and other gifts.

Such a practice often caused disturbance to services by the doctors to the patients at the hospital.

There are over 200 doctors both at the indoor and outdoor service of this hospital with 34 wards.

CMCH has the capacity of 1000 beds but it accommodates about 1500 patients, sources said. The CMCH is always overcrowded. Many patients are found flooding due to lack of beds at this second biggest hospital of the country.

theweekthatwas

USTC stalemate ends

BMA-USTC Coordination Council called upon the teachers and students of University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) to join their offices and classes as the Council had reached an understanding with the university authorities.

The Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the authorities in this regard on Saturday that helped end a 24-day stalemate at the university.

The Council made this call at a meeting at Lecture Gallery of the university in the city on Sunday.

In the meeting, chaired by Council convener Professor Dr. Imam Uddin, a 20-member Monitoring Cell was also formed to review implementation of the MOU. UTA President Professor Dr. Muhtakur Rahman and BMA, Chittagong Welfare Secretary Dr. Md. Shahadat Hossain were made convenor and secretary general of the Cell.

Transport leaders' ultimatum

Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation, Chittagong region and Eastern Regional (Chittagong and Sylhet divisions) Committee threatened to go for a countrywide 48-hour transport strike on August 23 if their 9-point demand was not met by August 22.

The Federation and Committee leaders at a joint press conference here on Sunday reiterated to enforce the strike.

The transport leaders told the journalists that they were holding rallies throughout the country to drum up support in favour of the strike.

Committee leaders Abdul Hai Adu and Haji Md. Yeakub Ali, Federation leaders Azizul Haq, Fazal Amin and Oli Ahmad were present at the press

Cadet College cultural competition begins

An Inter-Cadet College Literature and Music Competition began at Faujerdhat Cadet College (FCC) here on Wednesday.

FCC principal Lt. Col. Mahmud Ul Alam inaugurated the competition at the college auditorium. Some 250 cadets from 10 colleges were participating in the five-day competition including debates in English and Bengali and impromptu recitation, solo acting and general knowledge. Besides, competition would also be held on Tagor song, Nazrul song and classical music.

Tk. 6 cr project to develop tourist spot

The government has taken a Tk. 6 crore project to develop a tourist centre at Bamerchhara under Banskhali upazila. Bamerchhara will become an attractive tourist spot after completion of the project.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafurul Islam Chowdhury said this while he was inaugurating a fisheries week as chief guest at Banskhali on Friday.

The state minister, also the local MP, called for cultivating fish in wetland and waterbodies to enrich internal resources and create employment opportunity for poverty alleviation. Besides, it would help earn foreign exchange through export of fish after meeting the internal demand, he added.

District Council secretary Haris Chowdhury, TNO Noor Mohammad Majumder, Project director Tapan Kumar Dey also addressed the function.



Visitors crowd at the Thai Food and Fruit Festival organised jointly by Novo Cargo Services Ltd and Thai Airways International at Hotel Agrabad in the city

Model of healthy district

Intensified NGO activities side by side sincere development programmes of the government could build Chittagong as a model of education, health, conservancy and sanitation in the world.

Tapan Kumar Nath, coordinator of Health City Programme of WHO and senior assistant secretary of the government, said this here on Sunday. He was addressing a day-long workshop for NGOs as the chief guest. Tapan said Chittagong would be announced as a healthy district soon.

He urged the people concerned to work for sanitation and health through Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) and assured them of all out cooperation in this regard including financial assistance from WHO.

The FNB, Chittagong District Coordination Council, organised the workshop at the training centre of Upaker at Chandgaon Residential Area. Agriculturist Sarwar Kamal was special guest at the workshop with FNB, Chittagong convener and Upaker

JK Tower foundation laid

The foundation stone of 15-storey JK Tower was laid at Nandan Kanan in the city on Thursday.

Chittagong city mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury laid the foundation of the tower to be constructed at a cost of Tk. 15 crore. BNP central Economic Affairs Secretary Golam Akber Khondoker was special guest at the function with JK Group of Industries managing director and industrialist Jahangir Alam Khan in the chair.

FBCCI projection meet held

Need for united efforts of industrial and business leaderships was underscored for the development of the port city and commercial capital of the country.

Speakers at a projection meeting of Shilpa Baniya Parishad panel, led by Abdul Awal Mintu for the upcoming FBCCI election, held at a city hotel on Wednesday night also demanded for infra-structural development of Chittagong.

A discussion meeting titled "Role of Business Organisations in Promoting Trade and Commerce" was held at the ceremony. Mintu was the chief guest and Sarwar Jamal Nizam MP special guest.

The speakers also called upon everyone irrespective of party affiliation and creed or caste to come forward to improve law and order at any cost.

Later, the members of Shilpa Baniya Parishad were introduced. The members are Abu Alam Chowdhury, Md. Giasuddin Chowdhury, Obayedur Rahman, Syed Ahsanul Haq Shamim, Gazi Belayet Hossain, Alhaj Md. Mozammel Haq, KMR Monzoor, Alhaj Md. Sabur Khan,

Move to sell Kashem Jute Mills protested

The workers of Kashem Jute Mills here on Wednesday protested reported move for selling out the mills by the authorities and sought intervention of the administration concerned in the matter.

Workers Union leaders at a press conference at the local press club said the authorities reopened the mill after making partial payment of the arrears of the workers.

They said salaries of some 2,500 workers that amount to Tk. 10 crore remained pending. Any step for selling out the mill without making payment of these huge arrears would not be tolerated, they warned.

Haji Md. Jamir Ahmed, Abul Kashem, Abu Taher, Md. Shah Alam and Jalal Ahmed spoke at the conference.



Dr. Debit Taylor visits stalls at the Multi-media Fair organised by Aptech at Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong building on Wednesday.



Fatikchhari Students Forum forms a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club on Sunday demanding immediate arrest and punishment to those responsible for provoking Nazirhat college girl Rumi to commit